Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-086
Monday
4 May 1992

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FBIS-LAT-92-086 *4 May 1992*

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Peru

In interviews broadcast on Lima TV, President Fujimori says that although the United States does not support the suspension of democracy in the country, the unique problems faced by Peruvian society "force us to take our own steps" and as a "sovereign nation is entitled to self-determination." While international groups have pressed for a more rapid return of democracy, Fujimori believes that the United States will accept the adoption of a "new institutionality and a new constitutionality", not a "return to the constitutionality or democracy that prevailed on 4 April." Fujimori continues his opposition to accept the "manipulation" of a constituent assembly and plans on holding plebiscites which will "heed the people's demands in the most democratic manner possible." In a report carried by NOTIMEX, Fujimori also states his intention to "fulfill my mandate" and asserts that there is not "even a remote possibility" that he will leave power before 1995.

Oscar de la Puente, president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, announces that he is heading the commission for national dialogue and expresses his conviction in the "success of the dialogue" to give the nation a government system that will "respond to the clamor of the large national majorities," Lima TV reports. San Roman, proclaimed the legal president by the dissolved Congress, calls for all groups within the nation to "unite in an act of solidarity, renouncing any vested interests," NOTIMEX reports. It was reported that on 30 April San Roman held the first meeting of his own national dialogue "without any incident."

Cuba

At a 1 May ceremony and parade broadcast by Havana TV and attended by Fidel Castro and other leaders, Pedro Ross Leal delivers the keynote speech. Ross says Cubans are finding ways to overcome the obstacles imposed by the embargo. Even with limited resources, Cubans have increased production and yields in many crops to meet demand, he says. "Only a socialist culture can respond to the needs of all the people." The food program is clear proof of the value of social ownership, he says. "In accordance with his arrogant and opportunist mentality, U.S. President Bush has undertaken what he considers the job of putting the last nail in the revolution's coffin, reversing the revolutionary process and pushing our people back to the starting point." "Visceral hate explains his criminal methods: a suffocating embargo, a propaganda war, and constant terrorist threats and intimidation against other countries so that they will refuse to have any trade relations with Cuba. Bush's crime against Cuba would make the most delirious fascists pale."

Haiti

The tripartite talks, which include the military coup leaders, the National Assembly delegation, and the executive, will be extended into next week. A joint statement from the negotiators said "results of the meetings would be announced when they are finished," reports Bonaire Radio.

Colombia

Peace talks between the government and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board in Tlaxcala, Mexico was suspended on 2 May for an indefinite period of time. In an interview with Santa Fe de Bogota TV, Horacio Serpa Uribe, presidential adviser for peace, characterizes the break in negotiations as a "defeat for the country."

Panama

President Endara rejects THE NEW YORK TIMES remark that Panama's economic recovery might be financed by drug trafficking, EL PANAMA AMERICA reports. The "allegations are false and are part of a campaign being waged against Panama by U.S. newspapers," Endara insists. Endara also rejects the allegation that four former U.S. military officers are involved in the 4-5 December events.

Paraguay, Uruguay Officials To Mediate in Peru

PY0105143092 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
1 May 92 p 21

[Excerpts] In response to an OAS request, Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken will go to Lima, Peru, on 2 May to mediate in the conflict between Alberto Fujimori (the de facto president) and Maximo San Roman (the president elected by the Peruvian Congress). In Lima Frutos will join his Uruguayan counterpart, Hector Gros Espiell.

From 4 to 6 May, they will meet with political representatives from both sides to seek a feasible solution to the institutional crisis that was unleashed in Peru on 5 April.

The two foreign ministers will meet in Lima with leaders from both sides to discuss the possibility of arranging a meeting to start a dialogue that would be instrumental in restoring a democratic system in Peru and in reinstating the institutions that "President" Fujimori dissolved by decree (Congress, the courts, and so forth) and established a de facto dictatorial regime. [passage omitted]

Frutos and Gros will have to meet with Peruvian political forces first and then propose a formula to solve the crisis.

Rights Groups React to Police Acquittal

FL0105230492 Bridgetown CANA in English
2017 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 1, CANA—Caribbean reaction Friday to racial violence in California included condemnations by two organisations of a jury's acquittal of four white policemen. Caribbean Rights, a regional human rights organisation, said it shared deeply the feelings of outrage over the shocking acquittal of the policemen charged with the brutal, inhumane treatment of the black American motorist Rodney King.

"It is difficult to escape the feeling that race was a major factor in the verdict of the all-white jury, a verdict that seemed to ignore the first-hand, eyewitness account captured in a videotape of the brutal incident," said the human rights body.

"Caribbean Rights is not at all surprised at the eruption of violence that followed the verdict, and deeply regrets the loss of lives and the destruction to property which have already taken place in South Los Angeles." At least 31 persons have died, several thousand injured, and scores of buildings destroyed by fire.

"This verdict is likely to inflame racial tensions in other communities," Caribbean Rights added.

The Pan African Movement of Barbados said it was outraged at the blatant racism and injustice exhibited by the judicial system of the United States in acquitting the officers. "The whole world was able to see and assess the incontrovertible videotape evidence that was presented to and rejected by the all-white jury. There can therefore be only one explanation for the astounding verdict of the jury—age-old white American racism," the organisation said in a statement.

Ecuadoran Minister on Andean Free Trade Zone

PA3004232692 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish
1130 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Ecuador will not join the Andean Free Trade Zone unless several conflicts within the subregional integration agreements are solved. The announcement was made by Juan Falconi, minister of industry, commerce, and integration, who added that the foiled Quito meeting does not entail a failure of the Andean Pact inasmuch as the five partners continue to promote integration.

Falconi, who is chairman of the Cartagena Agreement Commission, has decided to hold a meeting with his colleagues in the subregion to seek solutions to the crisis of the Andean Pact. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua Favors Amendment to Nuclear Arms Treaty

PA3004195092 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry fully supports the initiative by Argentina, Brazil, and Chile to amend the treaty for the proscription of nuclear weapons in Latin America, signed in Mexico in February 1967 [Tlatelolco Treaty]. The amendment will allow Argentina, Chile, and Brazil to join the treaty fully.

As of February, 23 countries had subscribed to the treaty. The idea is to have all Latin American countries participate in developing the region without nuclear weapons.

Nicaragua joined the treaty in 1968 and endorses a special effort to incorporate all those countries in the region that have still not joined the treaty.

Cuba

Castro at May Day Ceremony, Workers Parade

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish at 1300 GMT on 1 May begin live coverage from Havana's Revolution Square of the activities to mark 1 May Workers Day. The Cuban national anthem is played to start the ceremony, followed by other patriotic songs. Fidel Castro can be seen flanked by Carlos Aldana, Pedro Ross Leal, Jorge Lezcano, and other party leaders as they walk to the reviewing stand. The camera pans the square showing the thousands of people gathered. Castro is seen waving to the crowd as the officials take their places on the stand.

At 1305 GMT announcer Manolo Ortega introduces Pedro Ross Leal, who begins the keynote speech.

Ross ends his speech and at 1340 GMT the parade begins. The camera shows Castro waving and doves being released over the square as the Cuban Workers Federation band and chorus perform patriotic songs. Coverage continues with relays from other provinces.

At 1445 GMT coverage returns to the parade in Havana. Groups of dancers and bicycle riders are shown passing by the reviewing stand. At 1617 GMT the march ends. The internationale is played. At 1621 GMT Fidel Castro and other officials leave the reviewing stand. The broadcast ends at 1623 GMT.

Pedro Ross Speech

PA0205171092 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 2110 GMT 1 May 92

[Speech by Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions and member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, at the Revolution Square in Havana on the occasion of Labor Day—live]

[Text] Dear commander in chief, comrades of the revolutionary leadership, distinguished guests, workers and combatant people of the capital, fellow countrymen: Millions of Cubans have mobilized today and are doing so at this hour throughout the country, in the capitals of the provinces and municipalities, in towns, sugar refineries, plains and mountains to attend workers' parades, marches of the combatant people, and people's rallies. They have moved on foot, on horseback, or on bicycle to celebrate this day as fitting for a nation of workers, of revolutionary people. These events are taking place in our plazas at a time of challenges and difficulties. They constitute a plebiscite whereby the majorities voice their opinions and their willingness to defend, at all costs, the power they have attained. [applause]

This large crowd, which is colorful and lively as it is a conscientious mobilization, is the expression of the most genuine revolutionary democracy. This is one more way the workers have of voicing their support for the party, the revolution, and our beloved Fidel. [applause] Thus they express their stand as protagonists in the historic effort to save the fatherland, the revolution, and socialism. [applause]

One only has to observe and interpret the events in the world today to understand that such aspirations are not an illusion or a stubborn attitude. On the contrary, with the fatherland, revolution, and socialism, we will all be saved and we will save our work, the future of our children, our honor, our ideas, and our cause. That is the banner and hope of the dispossessed, the hungry, and the humiliated people of this world. [applause]

Our youth cannot even remember the hateful underdevelopment, poverty, and theft of the past. But very close to us we can see the sad and agonizing situation of Our America, of the Third World, that has been recently worsened by the capitalist restoration in the former socialist countries. Some supposedly learned individuals are not convinced by the realities of this world because there is none so blind as he who refuses to see. They are not moved either by the thousand stories told by the dispossessed who suffer the shortages and do not have a plate on their table; who endure the absences of a textbook and a teacher; who suffer the lack of resources to save their lives; and, even worse, who experience the sorrow of having to beg for burial.

That is why on this unforgettable 1 May of this harsh and difficult year—during which there have been some who think they can wipe us off the map and during which we have dug deeper and become more invincible than ever—we are celebrating. We are celebrating on behalf of those who cannot do so now: workers and people who were betrayed, stripped of power—which fell into the hands of the neobourgeois—defeated, and broken; they became the grave diggers of socialism and messengers of a shameful and repugnant demagogic speech. Cuba, which is more independent, revolutionary, and socialist than ever, delivers a message of encouragement not just to those who have always been subjugated and exploited, but also to those who knew the security of socialism and to those who are now unemployed, unprotected, and are suffering the rebuilding of savage capitalism. [applause]

This 1 May arrives during the most tense and difficult moment of the special period. But why do we display so much certainty and so much confidence? We do so because the adverse circumstances imposed on us by the embargo, rather than weakening and disheartening us, have made us wiser and stronger. We are entitled to feel optimistic because of the potential that has been discovered, the creativity that has been unleashed, and the experience that has been achieved. We are optimistic because of the fortunate fact that disaster has made us correct mistakes and negative trends.

The rectification process created favorable conditions for overcoming immense obstacles and for strengthening

our decision to continue developing. The process bolstered our will to improve our socialism. We maintained the historic experience of building a more just and scientific society to replace the failed and obsolete capitalist system imposed on the Third World. The food program constitutes an encouraging and revealing example of what we can do at this time. We have found the right strategy. We have a will of steel and a people determined to give an affirmative response to this task of the highest priority. Solutions are being found based on our scientific potential. The smallest proof of that is that with the tremendous limitations of resources, we performed the feat of increasing production and yield in many crops to better meet the food requirements.

Problems in cattle production are being solved with similar solutions. To be sure, there are still selfish persons who think it is enough to please the minority with greater purchasing power. They do not understand the challenge of feeding an entire nation, every child and every elderly person. Only socialist agriculture can provide a solution to such a challenge. The results beginning to show in the food program constitute an undisputed success of social ownership, the socialist efforts, the implementation of science and techniques, the work by advanced collective groups, the new kinds of contingents, and the mass mobilizations. Only in these ways do true solutions appear. [applause]

Under those circumstances, our sugarcane workers performed the feat of carrying on the sugarcane harvest with 30 percent of the necessary resources. We salute the district workers, the technicians, the combine collectives, the cutters, and, especially, the million movement [movimiento millonario]. We salute all the forces involved in the sugarcane harvest, the forces that heroically wage the battle—without being held back by the lack of oil—to produce sugar, something vital for the country. We are certain that with those forces and all the new hands that may be necessary, the nation will answer the commitment voiced by Fidel last 26 July when he said that even if the sugarcane had to be cut by hand we would be capable of doing so. [applause]

At this time, tens of thousands of workers are mobilized all over the country to help wherever they are needed so we are not one man short in this month of May we begin today to cut what remains to be cut, plant, clean, fertilize, and cultivate the sugarcane for the next harvest. Science workers are also protagonists of this endeavor. We salute scientists, professionals, and technicians who faced the challenges, were devoted to their tasks in an exemplary way, and were encouraged by the successes achieved and those they see ahead.

They are sons of labor cradles; born in humble households that would never have been able to dream of reaching such lofty summits of thought and that ratify their commitment to their towns of origin by working with exemplary collective spirit, total devotion, unwavering principles, and the pride of being incorruptible as their fatherland. [applause]

It is in difficult times like these that inventors and rational minds rise to the occasion and the movement of advanced technology gains force. It is in such circumstances that the efforts of the people's councils to solve local problems show their fruitful and promising possibilities reflecting the determination to perfect the people's power.

We salute our poets who are taking Cuban poetry throughout the world, the genuine examples of artistic mastery; and the revolutionary intellectuals who are facing the temporary limitations of the special period to display the best of their talent. With their exemplary dignity and patriotism, now more than ever, they are elevating our national culture and the achievements of the revolution. [applause]

We salute our star athletes, who are ready to face the olympic challenge. We salute those who, even now, are working with even greater motivation in our countryside to waste not a single minute that can be dedicated to agricultural tasks. We salute all those who are in their production and service posts, and whose duty it is to safeguard our security.

Our workers are aware of the objective and external nature of the great problems we are facing. They are expressinging their determination to not coexist with subjective insufficiencies that bring difficulties, obstruct solutions, and exasperate the masses. The struggle against bureaucracy, indolence, negligence, laziness, favoritism, indiscipline, and any other expression of wishy-washy attitudes, which are not in keeping with the times we are living, are more important than ever.

Of course, our vigorous and healthy society has weak parts and counterrevolutionaries who openly play the enemy's game or who want to become the fifth column of resentful and repentant people to divide, sow discord, and weaken us from within. The paid sellouts of the fatherland who are running away from difficulties associate themselves with that group. That is also the case with the cowards who become frightened and try to become prosecutors of the revolution from comfortable retreats abroad. In addition, there are those who, without renouncing the benefits of socialism try to give lessons with enlightened prescriptions—and in view of the lack of response among our working people—are taking advantage of the generous platform made available to them by the foreign press.

We have an achievement to defend and a united, conscientious, and organized people. We have what we had to have: True Socialism and not a caricature that is easily torn apart. [applause] We are defending an achievement and an idea; we are defending our present and future. That is why we filled this square further than our eyes can see. In defense of the revolution, we will not give to the enemy even a tiny little bit, as the unforgettable Commander Ernesto Che Guevara said. [applause]

We have a unique party, Marxist and Leninist, heir and continuer of the one Marti founded. As that one is, ours

is also the heart of the revolution; it represents the unity of the Cuban nation and its historic aspiration to achieve independence, sovereignty, and social justice. A party that will never grow ashamed of its ideology or its name. [applause]

We have the best youth in the world and its vanguard has just given us the stimulating example of a Congress that renewed our spirit. We have healthy, strong, educated youths, who are proud and happy to live here. To them we have dedicated this 1 May. [applause] We have a workers movement that has a history of struggle and an awareness of class and is united with the revolution, the party, and Fidel. As evidence of that, the fact that in the face of words from abroad that seek to divide us and discourage the contribution of the workers, there has been a strong reaction by the masses in contributing to the Territorial Troops Militia [MTT]. There has also been payment of trade union contributions as a sign of rejection to the plans of the enemy and a show of revolutionary unity.

To guarantee the protection of the people, very quietly but without resting, we have dug people's tunnels. They are truly people's tunnels in the full sense of the word, because they are for the protection of the people and the people themselves are building them. Peasants, women's groups, and the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution firmly support the revolution. Together, these groups form a mass movement that organizes the activism of the revolutionaries linked to the most diverse tasks.

For the war of all the people, our glorious Revolutionary Armed Forces have the support of the MTT and the Production and Defense Brigades, thus ensuring that each and every Cuban will have a mission and a means to defend the fatherland. In the structures of the united and organized people, the Workers' and People's Detachments of Rapid Action [Destacamentos Obreros y Populares de Respuesta Rapida] have been established. Those detachments are very much appreciated and respected by the millions of patriots who form them. They are also feared and slandered by the enemy. In the same manner that the leaders of imperialism call the restoration of capitalism in Eastern Europe a revolution, they try to stigmatize with insulting adjectives those instruments of revolutionary power that, like many other of our organizations, are the legitimate results of our struggle against the Yankees and those who serve the Yankees and fight against us.

Those who would like to see the people defenseless in the face of the counterrevolution are scared of the Workers and People's Detachments of Rapid Action. If those who are enraptured by the profuse and ferocious anti-Cuban campaigns and have their ears glued to the counterrevolutionary radio and their eyes closed to reality, were to try to take over a city block, a park, or a corner without the need of tanks or professional repressive forces, they would receive the massive and solid reply of the organized people in those detachments. [applause]

Those who try to deceive us with the tale that imperialism has ended, so that we will let down our guard, are wasting their time. We will never let power be taken away from us. No one gave us that power and we will give it to no one, because it would costs us our independence, security, and fatherland. In accordance with his arrogant and opportunist mentality, U.S. President Bush has undertaken what he considers the job of putting the last nail in the revolution's coffin, reversing the revolutionary process and pushing our people back to the starting point.

That is how simple imperialism's program is: Counterrevolutionary restoration and vengeance against the entire people, whom imperialism cannot forgive for their firmness in upholding their banners. Visceral hate explains his criminal methods: a suffocating embargo, a propaganda war, and constant terrorist threats and intimidation against other countries so that they will refuse to have any trade relations with Cuba. Bush's crime against Cuba would make the most delirious fascists pale.

By cornering Cuba and forcing her to resist, Bush, far from intimidating us, encourages our people's best patriotic and combative qualities. [applause] There will be no soft replies for Bush's aggressiveness or accomplices. Instead there will be a spirit of combat and struggle on our land and on his. [applause]

If the air pirates that commit crimes against citizens of Western countries deserve to be turned over to justice, Cuba should be handed the criminals, who in Miami, under the protection of the empire, boast of sabotaging the Cubana airplane in Barbados. If the United States threatens to add merchant ships that call at Cuban ports to a new blacklist, they should also prepare arguments to counter our country's vigorous denouncement at international forums. If the United States is bent on carrying out radio and television broadcasts against Cuba, they should prepare themselves to receive Cuban radio broadcasts in their territory. [applause] [two-second break in reception]...know what is at stake. There is no room to back down and it is not our philosophy to turn the other cheek.

For us, this is the time to resist and struggle for defense as long as it remains an option, and struggle on the offensive when no other option remains. Bush, who concerns himself with finding faults with Cubans, should know that the worst Cuban is a cornered Cuban! [applause]

Bush will pass. The Cuban people will not only survive, but will realize their historic goals. The road is long and fraught with hardships, but we will travel it the only possible way: Together, making each person's destiny everyone's destiny. Under the tension of a double blockade, with part of our territory occupied by a power that wants to destroy us, attacked and besieged in a world in which the United States imposes its policies,

Cubans have no other way out than the one Marti called for 100 years ago: Join forces to free our fatherland. [applause]

To our Latin American brothers, whom Marti defended when he struggled for the liberty of Cuba, to them, and to those of other continents who encourage us with their solidarity and who are encouraged by our resistance because we also defend their hopes, we tell them: Here we are and here we will last forever, defending our right to a future and a hope for everyone.

Long live 1 May! [applause] [crowd replies: Long live!)

Long live our youth, the pride of our present and the guarantee for our future! [crowd replies: Long live!]

Socialism or death! Fatherland or death! We will win! [applause]

Commentary on Importance of 1 May This Year

FL0105160892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 1 May 92

["Our Opinion" commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] This is not a 1 May like other 1 Mays. Although in past years we celebrated enthusiastically this historic workers day, a day Marti described with letters of fire; although on past 1 Mays our people's internationalist spirit and will to triumph was upheld throughout our land and was expressed through the various ceremonies and parades; this year, this day, today, Friday, 1 May 1992, national and international circumstances demand of us all, of the entire virile and combative population, a singular show of revolutionary strength, creativity, and work greater than what we have known in the past.

That is because never before has our nation faced more difficult circumstances, in an increasingly unjust world in which not a few have abandoned their principles and their flags, their history and their dignity, and even the security and support of their children, parents, and siblings. Never before has the empire devoted such great efforts to crushing our revolution, using all the economic, political, diplomatic, and financial means at its disposal—without ruling out the military means—with the objective of homogenizing the world by destroying the symbol of the defense of socialism, the proletariat, and the highest expression of dignity. That is the role that, without our seeking it, history has given us.

Our position is not only a matter of principles and heroism under any circumstances. It is a realistic, objective attitude, because giving in to pressures from the empire does not even yield a bowl of beans as a recompense for treason. It would mean regressing to injustice, to the grotesque and brutal racism as is being seen today in Los Angeles, to massive unemployment, to the loss of all the social and material achievements of the people under the revolution. it would lead, in the last analysis, to the loss of the fatherland, for we must not forget that from Jefferson's time to the present, the idea of getting hold of our territory has never been abandoned in the United States.

The way it is presented does not matter, but in essence, in our times too, the choice is clear: annexation or independence. Under such circumstances, there is no room for doubts or hesitations. Through our socialism, the people's unity, and creative and sustained work, not only will the difficult conditions we are facing be overcome, but also we can guarantee that our children will have a fatherland, will preserve their own culture and values, the uniqueness of things Cuban. That is why this 1 May is a day of combat and struggle greater than any we have ever known.

Castro Presides Over Merit Recognition Ceremony

FL0205181892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The ceremony to decorate individuals for sustained outstanding work performance was presided over last night by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers. Here are the details.

A group of seven comrades with long backgrounds and outstanding work performance have received the title Labor Hero of the Republic of Cuba. Also, seven comrades and three sugarcane work groups received the Order of Lazaro Pena, Grade I. Another three workers received the Order of Lazaro Pena, Grade II; while two musicians, folk singer Sylvio Rodriguez and maestro (Carlos Embale) received the Order of Lazaro Pena, Grade III.

The people who received the title of Labor Hero of the Republic of Cuba were: Concepcion Campa Huergo, Antonio Leon del Monte, Maximiliano Velasquez Montecino, Abundio Sanchez Varona, Pedro Wilson Ferrer, Antonio Campos Toribio, and Hortensia Pichardo Vinales.

Raul Castro Stresses People's Councils Role

FL0405141092 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, said in Bayamo that the People's Councils are a vital link in Cuba's system of government; an extraordinary step toward perfecting it. The minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces headed a meeting to exchange experiences regarding the people's councils and stressed Fidel's words to the effect that the people's councils not only represent their districts' residents, but also the municipal, provincial, and central government.

Raul said that the creation of the people's councils represents a new step in the advancement of socialist democracy and pointed out that these institutions are governed by the people and mobilize the masses which

increases citizens' participation in governmental affairs and in solving community problems.

Official on UN Debate of Terrorist Actions

FL0205115392 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The Cuban Government's request that the UN Security Council examine the issue of the terrorist actions being carried out against our country, which are promoted and encouraged by U.S. authorities, was the subject of a news conference Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez-Parodi held for Cuban and foreign reporters.

[Begin Sanchez-Parodi recording] We want to say that this is not a new case. I say that it is not a new case for Cuba to insist or demand that measures be taken. It is not even a new thing for us to have done it in our bilateral communications through diplomatic channels with the United States. It is precisely the absence of any response to or effective measures concerning the requests, proposals, and demands that we have made through bilateral channels, and the fact that matters like this one have recently been brought up for consideration by the United Nations—particularly the Security Council—that has moved us to request on this occasion that the Security Council examine this situation in light of the new powers it has taken on, or its decision to examine such a matter. [end recording]

One of the obvious examples of attacks that our country has presented is the sabotage of the Cubana Airline plane in 1976, in which 73 people were killed, 57 of them Cubans.

[Begin Sanchez-Parodi recording] Among these, among the most flagrant aspects of the U.S. Government's behavior is precisely the way they have protected two individuals, two well- known terrorists, who have carried out terrorist acts. Initially they were paid by the Central Intelligence Agency, and later they also acted, not only against Cuba but also in other regions, other places, within the United States itself, and not only against Cuban facilities and citizens, but those of other countries as well.

The activities of those people are very well known, and based on the measures taken or the examinations by the Security Council on the subject—which previously was not done—we have requested that the subject be examined, and in particular we have cited as an example the situation of the terrorists Orlando Bosch and [Luis] Posada Carriles. They are very well-known cases, and it is known that they are basically covered and protected by the U.S. authorities. [end recording]

Reaction to Los Angeles Verdict, Violence

Station Commentary

PA0305172392 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 May 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Fifty-six blows against a defenseless man sprawled on the ground, whose only crime was to drive at an excessive speed in Los Angeles streets, constitute an act of abuse and police violence that assails the sense of personal dignity, justice, and human rights. The fact that four agents of the law gave a savage beating to a driver for committing an infraction would by itself justify a reaction of fury and rejection among the people. Yet, that affront to personal dignity is not the reason Los Angeles was thrown into turmoil.

The violence that has spread over that city and left a toll of 40 people dead did not arise because the four policemen who perpetrated that brutal attack are white and the beaten driver was a poor black man. That is not it. There is something even more monstrous here. The losses totaling over $500 million caused by the riots and the arrest of over 5,200 persons in the past 48 hours stemmed from the not-guilty verdict for the policemen by a 12-member jury, which did not include a single black. Despite their oath to do justice in an impartial manner, those twelve persons ignored the undisputable proof provided by a video fortuitously filmed by an amateur. It is no doubt another flaw in the judicial system, marred by racial discrimination in a society where being black, mulatto, or Hispanic constitutes a stigma that follows citizens for life wherever they go in the country, which only death can remove.

The Rodney King incident is not an isolated event. Approximately one year ago in Washington, the police fired and tore the thorax of Salvadoran citizen Daniel Enrique Gomez, although he had been handcuffed and had a totally nonviolent attitude. Now, in the face of this new manifestation of injustice, the surge of violence and the scope of the people's outrage, not just in California but in other states, prompted President George Bush to intervene. In a television speech broadcast from the White House, he announced 4,000 soldiers had been immediately deployed to Los Angeles to try to restore order with 1,000 more federal agents. He also promised the juror's verdict would be reviewed. Meanwhile, 5,200 U.S. citizens will not sleep in their homes tonight, and 44 of them will never do so again, because they are dead. Millions of blacks, mulattos, and Hispanics ponder with a sense of outrage and powerlessness how 24 years after the murder of Martin Luther King, their dream of equality is still trampled by a society that boasts of being a defender of human rights in other countries.

Contreras Commentary

FL0205133892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 2 May 92

["Our Opinion" commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] Today the drama that is being played out in Los Angeles and that has spread to other places in the United States has continued, while President Bush is leaning toward the use of force against the demonstrations and disturbances. He is ignoring the fact that behind the violence that has broken out in some cities in California, there is an undercurrent of tension that affects all of U.S. society. The Reverend Jesse Jackson, who ran for U.S. president in the last elections, summarized the essence of the social drama of the minorities in that country when he said that there are more blacks in the prisons than in universities.

Unemployment among blacks affects more than 14 percent, while among whites it is less than half that figure, 6.9 percent. Average income among whites is 40 percent higher than among blacks. The same figures can be seen among the more than 35 million Americans who, according to official statistics, live below the poverty line. The aberrant verdict that declared innocent four white police officers who on 3 March 1991 viciously beat Rodney King, a young black man, is only one example of the racism that permeates American society. The violence that has broken out in Los Angeles is a counterpart to the violence that is present throughout U.S. society.

The Army, National Guard, special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the police will surely be able to restore order in Los Angeles and other cities in California. But such measures do not deal with the essence of the problem, but rather with the form in which such evils are expressed in the face of extreme situations such as the grotesque performance by the judicial system in Los Angeles. In an election year, after the first day of disturbances, Bush said, and I quote: Justice has acted. Now the law must be obeyed. When the violence spread, he said that the verdict had been unjust, and last night he gave assurances that the case would be reviewed.

But the problem of racism is not limited to the application of the law, and Bush does not dare to admit that. To accept things as they are—that is, that there is obvious injustice in American society, that there is racism, that civil and human rights are violated, that opportunities are not equal for all, that the judicial system is not impartial—to act that way would be to act objectively and honestly. That is not the case here. The U.S. Government presents the United States as a model of freedom and respect for human, civil, and social rights; the country of equality of opportunity for all. The Yankee government has taken upon itself the leadership of the world and the function of supreme judge on Earth.

That is nothing original, of course, because if one reviews history, one can see that such hegemonic and paradigmatic behavior has characterized most of the great empires. Can there be any morality, shame, or decency in talking about human and civil rights in the United States, a country in which there are more blacks in prisons than in universities, a rich country where there are proportionately so many poor, a wealthy nation that has not been able—or its leaders have not wanted—to eradicate the most elemental racism, a country that because of the very scale of values of the system through which an individual obtains success in life is synonymous with violence and selfishness?

The United States is not the country that Whitman sang of, or that Martin Luther King dreamed of in vain. The industrious American workers, the citizens who have not lost their faith and continue to dream of a more just society, those who in desperation in extreme moments turn to violence—which no one wants—the children and young people pushed aside by the system, and the American people in general deserve a better fate and more honest leaders than those the system produces.

Commentary About Mobilization in Agriculture

FL0105133992 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 May 92

["Focus" commentary]

[Text] May will demand a titanic mobilizing effort from the country for many agricultural tasks. That is why it is so important that for the thousands of agricultural workers, contingents, and mobilized workers the commemoration of 1 May should be expressed in dedication to those tasks. The abnormal weather conditions that have been affecting us as a result of the El Nino phenomenon, as well as the lack of the necessary amounts of fuel and shortages of fertilizers, herbicides, and mechanical components for agricultural machinery, have forced us to carry out cultivation of decisive crops urgently [words indistinct].

The main emphasis of the mobilization on a national scale must be the need to do the maximum to fulfill the sugar production plan and give precedence to the planting, weeding, and other tasks in the cane fields so that a greater amount of the raw materials can be ensured in order to carry out the next sugar harvest under better conditions and give the country greater financial capacity.

It will also be necessary to make up for some delays we are facing in the planting and weeding tasks for important types of vegetables such as corn, yuca, boniato, and malanga, and in the establishment of new banana plantations. These delays have accumulated because of the attention—which could not be postponed—that had to be given to the harvests in view of the dangers and difficulties caused by abnormal rains in recent weeks. It is also essential to make a substantial contribution in certain provinces to make up for delays in rice planting as well as in working on pasture areas to ensure feed for livestock. Problems with the availability of agricultural machinery have had an effect on this.

Starting this 1 May, the tasks have become urgent ones. We cannot lose a single minute in view of the need to gain time from nature, as complex climate conditions have been forecast for the next few months in certain parts of the country, and more intense manual work is needed in caring for the crops because of the shortage of essential products such as fertilizers and herbicides.

The strong support for mobilization that will be asked of the masses in coming days to ensure the tasks are accomplished should take place in a rational way and with the goal of seeking truly productive participation. That strategy is the way to guarantee better results in self-sufficiency in the country's basic food products under the current exceptional conditions of survival, and to ensure adequate sugarcane, our main export product. With the people's cooperation, the introduction of novel ideas in the work of the enterprises to obtain high yields through [words indistinct] and consistent application of science and technology, we can obtain productive results efficiently.

That was made obvious with the first great results in food production achieved during the harvests at this time of year. That is clear evidence that in spite of the tremendous impact of the virtual end of our natural market and the intensification of the criminal U.S. embargo, the Cuban nation has not lost its ability to solve its problems. It is this assurance that motivates us to continue to create wealth with consciousness and to uphold the firm conviction that we can strengthen our unity for socialism.

Printing Enterprise Serves Churches Nationwide

FL3004130192 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Report by Maribel Puerto]

[Text] Although the Agusto Coto Information and Studies Center was established in 1961 to print material for the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, over time it has begun to serve all the churches in Cuba. Now it also prints Bible lessons, student notebooks, and theology volumes, as well as pamphlets, books, and a bulletin on the center. The fliers that were distributed in churches and chapels during the Pan-American Games were printed here, and they also print event calendars and other materials that the churches order.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We are doing printing for a considerable number of churches, 17 denominations, and more than 130 or 140 congregations. We send them material that we print and also some things that they need for their work [words indistinct] for the church. [end recording]

Right now, they are printing a book about Camilo Torres, the priest and guerrilla who was killed in combat 25 years ago. Among their plans are local [word indistinct] to be done with their own resources, and a plan to convert the premises into an ecumenical center for activities of Cuban and foreign groups. They also coordinate with political and mass organizations to offer a series of conferences on topics such as young mothers, sex education, and other topics of interest to young people.

More on Escalona Remarks About Electoral Reform

PA0105202492 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 May 92

[Report by Barbara Betancourt]

[Text] The foreign journalists who attended the news conference given by Dr. Juan Escalona, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], asked many questions about the new electoral bill. They also expressed interest in the way candidates to the Cuban Assembly will be nominated and elected.

Escalona stated that if the country's conditions permit, the legislation could be approved in October, but elections will not take place until 1993. He stated the creation of a national electoral commission formed by prestigious national figures will be necessary for the elections. Such persons must not necessarily be militants of the Communist Party of Cuba, he added.

[Begin Escalona recording] An idea being considered is that the electoral commission can receive nominations of candidates. Some comrades insist on the idea that the candidates must come from different associations, unions, or institutions of the country, such as the National Union of Writers and Artists, the Union of Scientists, and the Ecumenical Council.

The national electoral commission will receive the nominations. We have discussed the possibility that municipal assemblies will ultimately present to the population the list of nominated candidates with an unspecified number of votes, such as 25 or 30 percent, over the other candidates. That will give the population the opportunity to elect the candidate of their choice. [end recording]

Escalona was also asked about the possibility that members of small groups opposed to the revolution be nominated as candidates to the post of deputy.

[Begin Escalona recording] As a group, they will have no representation. An individual who may be ideologically linked to those groups could be nominated in the municipality where he lives, with several other candidates. That does not worry me. Besides, who can categorically state that at the current ANPP, we share the same opinion on 100 percent of the issues. In Cuba—I do not know how long you have been in Cuba—you will see there are many opinions. [end recording]

Escalona reported that at the special session in July, the Cuban Assembly will discuss the proposed changes to the Constitution of the Republic. The changes must include the secret and direct vote to elect deputies to the National Assembly, the replacement of atheism for

laicism, constitutional support for legislation on mixed enterprises with guarantees for foreign investors, and other modifications.

In addition, Escalona was asked about the current situation in Peru.

[Begin Escalona recording] First of all, I think the coup is a Peruvian problem. Peruvians got into that trouble and it is up to them to resolve the situation. I also think it shows the fragility of the process of forceful democratization, which comes from the imposition of neoliberalism and the economy of shock. Regrettably, these policies only affect the poor and not the rich, who are able to overcome the shocks.

Regrettably, it is not only Peru. The situation in Venezuela is still explosive, as some Venezuelan parliamentarians who attended the meeting in Cameroon told me. The situation is still tense.

Those who want to implement formulas are free to do so. Each country decides....[pauses] employment must not be a formula. We already lived under those formulas for many years. [end recording]

UK Ambassador Presents Drug Detection Equipment

FL0105011592 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Bearing in mind that illegal traffic in narcotics and psychotropic substances is the scourge that most affects mankind, communication between countries becomes very important. Today, the British ambassador to Cuba, his Excellency Leycester Coleman, on behalf of his government, donated to Cuba equipment vital for the detection of various narcotics. Amado Guntin, Cuban vice minister of Justice, and Boris Castillo, deputy chief of the General Customs Office of the Republic of Cuba, received the donation. The equipment donated by the British Government identifies drugs [words indistinct] as well as a device that opens containers without damaging them. Mr. Donald MacClaren of MacClaren, deputy chief of the British mission, and Mr. Jonathan Knott, second secretary of the British Embassy in Cuba, as well as other Cuban Government officials, participated in the ceremony.

Military Delegation Concludes Visit to PRC

FL0205153392 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1412 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] A Cuban military delegation headed by Division General Julio Casas Regueiro, the first vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, today concluded a visit to the PRC. The delegation, which was in the PRC for almost one week, traveled at the invitation of the Ministry of National Defense, and met with Defense Minister and State Councilor Qin Jiwei and other officials. Casas Regueiro and his delegation also toured the cities of Qingdao and Yantai in the northern region. The tour by Casas Regueiro affirms even more our ties of friendship with that country, to which we are joined by bonds of affection because of the large number of immigrants who came to Cuba from there.

Institute President Begins Visit to Vietnam

FL0205144992 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Vietnamese and Cuban officials have stated that the friendship between their two peoples brings them closer together in spite of the difficulties both are experiencing. That was stated on the occasion of the visit to Hanoi by Sergio Corrieri, the president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples. On his arrival, he was met by two of the most prestigious women in Vietnam, [name indistinct] and Nguyen Thi Dinh.

The latter is a vice president of the Council of State, the president of the Vietnamese Women's Federation, and a commander of the South Vietnamese Liberation Forces. She expressed interest in the development of the problems that exist in Cuba, and stated that she favors closer ties between the two nations. For his part, Corrieri stressed that each country should find its own alternatives, and said that Cuba and Vietnam are following that course in spite of U.S. pressures.

Haiti

Tripartite Meetings Extended Into 'Next Week'

FL0205125192 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Talks among Haiti's military coup leaders and legislators for a solution to the nation's political crisis will be extended into next week. A joint statement from the negotiators said results of the meetings would be announced when they are finished. Supporters of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide say the military has said an OAS accord to return Mr. Aristide to power will not be discussed as part of the current talks.

Further on Day of Protest in Capital 29 Apr

FL3004172492 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Mass organizations close to the deposed president had called upon the population to mobilize yesterday in favor of the ratification of the Washington agreement. The National Front For Change and Democracy, FNCD, and the National Congress of Democratic Movements, Conacom, had issued a watchword for a horn and casserole concert [banging of pots and pans] for 29 April at 1600 GMT. This watchword was not followed in the downtown area. Noisy demonstrations were heard in the slum areas in the capital, including Petionville. We noted that the watchword was followed in several areas in Port-au-Prince.

Theodore Postpones Trip To Venezuela

FL3004212692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Rene Theodore's trip to Caracas has been postponed. Rene Theodore, prime minister-designate under the OAS-sponsored negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis, has indicated in a press release that he will not go to Venezuela, given the complexity of the situation in Haiti. The communique states that Theodore prefers to postpone this trip to a future date.

President Salinas Gives Labor Day Address

PA0205182492 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 2014 GMT 1 May 92

[Labor Day speech by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari in Mexico City—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text]...with you this special sample of the strength of our homeland's workers. For several hours, hundreds of thousands of workers rallied at Plaza de la Constitucion in our country's historic center, in front of the presidential building's central balcony. We confirmed the vitality, dynamism, and power of the workers organized into trade unions in Mexico. Their enthusiasm and the example of their organization is one of the most prominent signs of Mexico's social dynamism. This is why we have progressed toward economic stability and sound institutions. We are confident in our course and the country's future, because we can turn this organized power into the unity of and encouragement for Mexicans.

The alliance between the organized labor movement and the government continues to be a means for the genuine defense of the workers' interests. It is also a source of justice and freedom for the country. Today, the workers expressed their attainments, demands, and hopes. We want economic growth leading to tangible benefits and greater justice for workers and their families. You, distinguished members of the country's organized labor movement, are the backbone of the fulfillment of the Mexican people's dearest aspirations. This is because the labor movement stands for a historical experience, that of the country's development. The movement's first stages met with misunderstanding and opposition. The workers of those days, most of them peasants who had emigrated to the cities, often pledged, under adverse circumstances, to reestablish the basic rights of the labor force.

More than one century ago, a trade union tradition emerged in Mexico that established the Mexican labor movement as one of the most important in world history. After the revolution, the organized workers became one of the fundamental factors for social balance, juridical order, and the administration of justice—principles that have been firmly maintained by the labor organizations. The labor laws governing us, as well as the institutions that protect the people's improvements, which represent a multitude of realities that cannot be relinquished, are the result of the workers' actions based on their own unity and that of the country.

Mexico has progressed, no doubt thanks to its workers, who have adapted themselves to the circumstances of development and the world environment. The workers have always driven Mexico forward, benefiting in the process. For this reason, the labor movement's patriotism and strategic vision cannot be denied. With efficacious nationalism and an adequate strategy of change, the Mexican people face the world challenge of the present time, namely, to compete for markets to survive as a nation and consolidate our growth. For the country's development, it is now essential to compete for markets both at home and abroad. At present, we see how the economic integration zones and the countries desiring to guarantee their progress use their strategic resources to make changes in their economic programs and structures. They do this in education, trade, and production. In these nations, workers, employers, and the government act as one and present a common front because this represents a greater advantage in opening and maintaining markets.

The future world will only be productive for nations acting in unity and efficiently in the international realm of goods and services, reaffirming the principle of justice. In view of the conditions abroad, the Mexican people must work together to extend the benefits of growth to the neediest population. We have stabilized our economy, which grows at twice the rate of the population. As the result of the pact, we have substantially reduced inflation, which harmed all, but the workers in particular. Now we want production that will result in more equity and justice. We want the workers to get a fair salary in exchange for their work. An agreement, without precedent in the country's history, was reached here. This agreement becomes even more meaningful because it was signed on 1 May. The popular forces have received renewed encouragement through the Labor-Peasant Pact. This pact will make possible an alliance between field and urban workers, joining forces to stimulate development and justice throughout the country. The pact represents powerful motivation for the country and hope for the families of workers, both rural and urban. This is, may I repeat, an unusual event in the history of our nation's popular movements and in the effort of field and urban workers.

To improve the workers' standard of living and be competitive abroad, we have, as in the great times of the Mexican labor movement, made a general effort for productivity and training that will result in the increased well-being of workers. Only by increasing our production, we will be able to consolidate our economy, which can give every Mexican family more security. Only through a permanent training effort, will we be able to incorporate our production capacity into the future.

Mexico will not base its competitiveness on cheap manpower, but will display its capacity, imagination, and talent within the context of a revolution of quality and new technologies, many of them requiring intensive work. Production signifies creating new forms of organizing production, investment, training, and individual and group effort. Sector by sector, enterprise by enterprise, as you have set out to do, constitutes the purpose of Mexicans to prosper, progress, and make our nation strong.

We have decided, therefore, that the financial institutions consider the costs to enterprises to train workers as investments—to increase the production and welfare of workers. In this way, the businesses that do so, can be eligible for credits and favorable financing by these institutions.

The Mexican state reiterates its commitment to the working class and our country's development. We will continue to promote concerted efforts and dialogue as a method of social agreement. We will strengthen the pact for stability and recovery, which has represented, precisely, a larger growth of our economy, with considerably lower inflation than we had experienced a few years ago.

The state will remain the protector of the workers and as conciliator of worker-management interests. The achievements of the workers, which are reflected in our labor laws, cannot be renounced. The changes that have been carried out in the housing and savings fund of the workers are designed to expand these achievements for the benefit of national saving, but also to benefit the families of workers of our fatherland. That is why the retirement savings system clearly spells out the social benefits due the workers by law. At the same time, I understand their interest in participating in solidarity, which will permit the convergence of worker leaders, peasants, and public workers to strengthen the popular leaders and forces.

The state will be the promoter of market penetration and will continue to direct, with the fundamental objective of increasing the welfare of Mexicans, the change and modernization of the country. It will guarantee a clean development. The progress of industry will not be achieved at the cost of the environment, the balance of the ecosystems, or to the detriment of the safety of workers or the climate in which they live.

We reiterate the alliance of the state with the worker movement, with a view to responding to the challenges of today in Mexico, which prepares to be part of the new era of the 20th century.

Friends and fellow workers of the country: Our path to the 21st century is not one of confrontation or of division, much less the weakening of the worker organizations. The path of Mexico, of social liberalism, is of new relations for productivity and more social justice for the workers in the city and countryside. This is the commitment of the government. It has a role to play alongside the worker, conciliating different interests, which are resolved through concerted efforts and dialogue.

The state does not substitute, but promotes; it does not abandon, but accompanies, protects, encourages, prevents abuse, and applies the law. This is social liberalism in the face of work, alongside the workers of the city and countryside. The state promotes the role of the organized workers and their unions, with total respect of their organizations, to consolidate a competitive economy and a scheme [two-second break in reception]. This is not the time to redefine, much less modify the concept of sovereignty. It is very clear. It is only up to Mexicans to assume the decisions in the development of our fatherland. That is how we ratified it and we will demand this in our harmonious relations with other countries of the world. Our country will continue to be sovereign. We will continue to defend the independence of our fatherland and the liberty of Mexicans, within a framework of justice and democracy. That is why we celebrate, today, this day of struggle, memories, and workers organizations. Today is a day that all of us commemorate, because it is in favor of liberty and justice for the workers and for the sovereignty of our fatherland. [applause]

Salinas Chairs Environmental Protection Meeting

PA0105212292 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has asked Luis Donaldo Colosio, secretary of the Urban Development and Ecology Secretariat [Sedue], to begin ecological surveys of those companies that present the greatest risks. The object of these surveys is to prevent another disaster like the one that occurred in Guadalajara, Jalisco.

Salinas chaired the meeting on preventing disasters in the Adolfo Lopez Mateos Hall in Los Pinos. Salinas ordered the various secretaries of state and other officials to adopt immediate measures to prevent disasters like the one that occurred in Guadalajara last week.

[Salinas] "The lessons learned in Guadalajara must turn into actions that will reduce the possibility of disaster in Mexico, and that will yield a change of attitude among public servants, businesses, and society in general."

Salinas asked Colosio to begin on 4 May ecological surveys of companies that present the greatest risks, and also to begin during the first two weeks of May studies of definition and quantification of environmental risks in the 50 biggest urban centers of Mexico and in those industrial zones that have the highest demographic and productive concentration. In four weeks the Sedue must present the general ecological plan for the entire country. This plan is to be used for regional, state, and municipal reorganization, and to determine what type of industries, and productive and environmental activities would merit sustained development.

Salinas ordered Francisco Rojas, director of Mexican Petroleum, to work in coordination with Sedue to complete within three months the study of its gas and oil pipelines systems, especially those that are located in urban areas.

Andres Caso Lombardo, communications and transportation secretary, must present in May federal regulations on the transportation of dangerous substances and waste material.

[Salinas] "I am asking the head of the Federal District to apply—through the Metropolitan Commission for the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution in Mexico City—the corresponding measures to guarantee

the security of residents in that city. I will expect concrete answers within one week."

Salinas asked Government Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios to elaborate on contingency plans and to conduct practice drills so that residents can become familiar with them.

Salinas asked Defense Secretary Antonio Riviello Bazan and Navy Secretary Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo to strengthen the DN-3 [disaster relief plan] program. He asked the National Water Commission to carry out an intensive technical training program to expand during the coming weeks the inspection of drain pipes so as to identify dangerous liquids and gasses.

Salinas asked the private sector to actively participate in the implementation of the aforementioned measures. He is hoping that over the next six months the industries that constitute the highest risks will present their programs.

[Salinas] "I will be very strict in applying the measures that have been announced thus far, and I personally will keep myself informed about the progress made regarding their execution."

Salinas said that faced with natural disasters or disasters that stem from human activities, those who have political responsibilities should visit the areas where these disasters occur and talk to the people affected in order to make the proper decisions to reduce the risks and save lives.

[Salinas] "These are not comfortable times for those in public posts, much less the right time for traditional ideas about public administration to prevail. These are not comfortable times for those who were prepared to live in a country and in a society that does not exist anymore, a society that has changed. The government is there to serve, to make decisions, and to act when necessary. We are not here just because we have reached our goal; we are here to work for the people and to serve the people effectively."

Luis Donaldo Colosio; Jose Sarukham, rector of the National Autonomous University of Mexico; and Monterrey Municipal President Benjamin Clarion were among those who spoke during the meeting on preventing disasters. The meeting was attended by five secretaries of state, as well as by directors of parastate organizations and directors of educational and health institutions.

El Salvador

Poll Views Security Corps, Peace Accords

PA0105184492 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Report by Maria Teresa Fajardo]

[Text] Immediately following the signing of the peace accords between the government and the rebels, the people voiced their support and general acceptance for the implementation of the peace accords, according to a poll by the Public Opinion Institute of the Central American University (UCA) conducted nationwide between 18 January and 1 February 1992.

In the second part of the survey dealing with the assessment of the peace accords, the results on replacing the security corps with a new National Civilian Police [PNC] should be mentioned. On this point, the people favored a purge and reduction of the Armed Forces, as well as the prompt installation of the PNC because the Treasury Police and National Guard are not trustworthy.

[Begin unidentified Public Opinion Institute spokesman recording] We asked the people if they agreed with replacing the security corps with the new PNC. On this point, the difference of the responses was very high. Of those polled, 72.7 percent responded that they favored replacing the security corps with the new PNC. Specifically, more than seven out of every 10 Salvadorans agree with replacing the security corps with the new PNC.

Only 21 percent of those polled voiced opposition to replacing the security corps. In other words, two out of every 10 persons did not favor eliminating the security corps.

The next question was on a subject that has sparked heated debates at the Legislative Assembly and throughout the country in general. I am referring to the possibility of granting a general amnesty to the violators of human rights. At the time the poll was taken, Salvadorans were very happy and the reconciliation spirit was at its maximum level. In response to the question on a possible amnesty for violators of human rights in El Salvador, 47.5 percent of those polled, half of Salvadorans, voiced their opposition to such a measure.

However, 31 percent of Salvadorans, well below the aforementioned figure, favored granting amnesty to [four-second break in reception] of every 10 Salvadorans oppose granting amnesty to human rights violators, while three out of 10 Salvadorans favor granting amnesty to human rights violators.

We believe this should be considered when the Legislative Assembly resumes the discussion of this issue. As you will recall, granting amnesty within six months to those who have violated human rights is pending the ruling to be issued by the Truth Commission.

We polled the people on their thoughts on granting a possible pardon and amnesty to the murderers of the Jesuit priests—this poll took place in October 1991—and the responses were similar to those in January 1991. At that time, 41 percent of those polled voiced opposition to granting amnesty to the murderers of the Jesuit priests, while 19 percent favored such a measure. In other words, a two to one relationship. For every Salvadoran who favored granting amnesty to the murderers of the Jesuit priests, two were opposed to such a measure.

The third part of the poll is a group of questions aimed at assessing the people's knowledge of the verification instruments. In other words, the people's evaluation of Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] and UN Observers for El Salvador at the beginning of peace in the country.

The first group of questions refers to an evaluation of Copaz. We introduced this topic by asking the people if they considered the participation of political parties for the consolidation of peace in the country as very important, important, of little importance, or unimportant. Well, 66 percent of those polled consider the role of political parties as important and very important to consolidate peace in the country. In other words, two-thirds of those surveyed described the role of political parties as important in bringing peace to the country. [end recording]

The opinion poll of Salvadorans regarding the peace accords included 1,697 persons from five urban areas and an independent section in the rural sector.

Despite the highly positive and favorable results of the aspects evaluated in this poll, people's fear on the freedom to express themselves was significant, because half of the Salvadorans felt some rightist and Armed Forces sectors are opposed to the peace process.

Request For Military Maneuvers Canceled

PA0205043092 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 May 92

[Excerpt] The Salvadoran Armed Forces on 1 May withdrew the request filed at the Legislative Assembly for permission to conduct the military maneuvers called "Gulf Guardians" ["Guardianes del Golfo"] with the United States in the Fonseca Gulf.[passage omitted]

Guatemala

Minister Garcia Samayoa on Response to Bombings

PA0205213192 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 1 May 92 p 3

[Text] Reacting to the psychosis caused by the bomb explosions and the numerous street demonstrations that have resulted in vandalism, the national defense minister was questioned about remarks by the human rights attorney concerning the possibility of adopting exceptional measures.

General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa said that the events will be evaluated and a decision will depend on the course of these studies. He did not rule out the possibility of the president making such a decision to maintain the democratic state.

"For the time being I do not see a great need to do this, but if things get worse, the law authorizes the president to resort to this mechanism," he added.

The minister said that a meticulous investigation is underway to find the individuals who have placed bombs and alarmed the people.

National Defense Minister Gen. Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa announced to the Congress that due to the social situation that is affecting the citizenry, military units have been deployed to the southern coast to prevent any illegal activities.

The minister met with Defense Commission deputies, who asked him to explain the Army's role in the Hunapu Task Force and the social situation on the southern coast.

Garcia Samayo said that the Army is not unaware of Guatemala's situation. Concerning the actions of terrorist criminals, he said that the Army is prepared to react; things always happen where they are least expected.

In his speech to the Congress, Gen. Garcia Samayoa reiterated that the Committee for Peasant Unity, CUC, is one of the guerrillas' armed branches and that its members, like the CPR [Popular Revolutionary Commandos], have acted like "Saddam Husayns" of the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] and have shown no political resolve for dialogue.

The members of the CUC, the minister said, are ungrateful human rights violators who are morally bankrupt and lack courage because they have used the CUC and the CPR as shields while touring Europe.

Gen. Garcia Samayoa said that the Government Ministry has not announced the decision to have the Army quit the Hunapu Task Force. He said that the Armed Forces keep in contact with Government Minister Fernando Hurtado Prem and advise the National Police on security matters. This does not mean that the soldiers who are members of this security force do not obey police orders; they must adhere to disciplinary regulations.

Rebels Deny Involvement

PA0205173492 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 May 92 p 5

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] General Command issued an urgent communique signed by their commanders, which states: On 29 April, President Jorge Serrano Elias and other officials issued statements linking and blaming the URNG to the explosions in public offices and places.

The URNG General Command most categorically denies the president's charges and insinuations because they are false and biased. The URNG states that it has no responsibility or connection with the terrorist campaign that has taken place in Guatemala over the past few days.

The URNG considers the president irresponsible for making such serious charges. In view of the country's situation, the URNG is concerned and cannot help but connect these statements with the positions and intentions of obscurantic and recalcitrant sectors opposing the negotiation process.

Instead of making false accusations, the URNG added, President Serrano and his intelligence services should name the ones who are truly responsible and take action against them, as the authorities do know the source of these acts.

Religious, Local Leaders Receive Death Threats

PA3004213692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2042 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Ethnic groups in Quiche and Huehuetenango Departments reported that churchmen and people's leaders have received death threats and that armed men kidnapped a missionary nun.

To these reports, made by Mutual Support Group (GAM) and the "Rujunel Junam" Council of Ethnic Communities (CERJ), one must add the violence hitting Quiche and Huehuetenango Departments, just when the peace talks in Mexico between the Guatemalan Government and guerrillas are bogged down.

CERJ ethnic leader Amilcar Mendez reported that the clandestine organization Christian Patriotic Front made deaths threats to Quiche Bishop Monsignor Julio Cabrera and Father Adrian Mejia from the San Pedro Jocopilas Municipality, also in Quiche.

Mendez told NOTIMEX that the alleged paramilitary organization, through a bulletin distributed in Quiche, 168 km west of Guatemala City, also threatened to "murder" CERJ leader Miguel Suququi.

Also warned of the danger were Rosalina Tuyuc from the National Commission of Guatemalan Widows, and Rigoberta Menchu from the Committee for Peasant Unity in Mexico, Nineth de Garcia from GAM, who were charged with taking part in guerrilla organizations.

The Confederation of Clergymen of Guatemala reported serious threats against other leaders in several places.

Almicar Mendez also reported the illegal execution of peasant Pedro Paguey, 22, from San Pedro Jocopilas, and that on 29 April, at the same place, Civilian Self-Defense Patrolman Juan Everildo Ordonez was executed with two shots in the stomach.

Nicaragua

President Delivers 'Message to Workers' 1 May

PA0105225992 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 1 May 92 p 9

["Message to Workers" issued by President Violeta Chamorro on International Labor Day, 1 May]

[Text] Dear Nicaraguan workers:

The first of May is the date that the workers of the world have chosen to commemorate their just struggles.

As president of the Republic, I join the Nicaraguan workers in their celebration.

In Nicaragua bloodshed has been left behind. Today we have decided to celebrate the rule of reason and law as well as the undertaking of a dialogue and a national agreement. These are fitting instruments for the democratic construction of social peace. We are not dealing with mere intentions, but with specific facts: in my two-year administration we have honored and recognized unrestricted freedom of the labor unions. The pluralism reached within the unions enables the workers to choose among several options; they can choose those that meet their own needs.

Since May 1990 we have registered over 650 new labor unions that congregate over 32,000 workers. In 1991, over 130 collective bargaining agreements were negotiated and signed, benefiting over 120,000 workers.

The level of agreement reached in the solution of collective labor conflicts—including strikes, the temporary suspension of contracts, and cases of dismissals—have been excellent. In cases involving over 39,338 workers, negotiated and accepted solutions by both parties were reached 94 percent of the time.

The above clearly shows that the policies fostered by my national reconciliation government have a positive effect on the Nicaraguan workers.

My government recognizes three important circumstances: first, the work of the Nicaraguan labor force is an essential factor for economic development; second, the workers' effort in the construction of the future should be recognized; and third, this effort paves the way toward development in which economic growth will go hand in hand with social equality.

To conclude, I want to urge all the workers, particularly the peasants, to take up their work, as this is the only way for Nicaragua to progress for the well-being of the Nicaraguan family. We must put the nation first, before any ideological or party interest.

I understand this is not easy right now, but we have a firm commitment to democracy, peace, development, and liberty for all Nicaraguans.

Chamorro Suspends 4 May Visit to Bogota

PA0305014292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2248 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Bogota, 2 May (NOTIMEX)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro has suspended her official visit to Colombia that was to begin on 4 May in view of her country's domestic situation, the Nicaraguan Embassy announced on 2 May in Bogota.

An embassy communique pointed out that radical groups have seized the main highways of the country and have left Nicaragua virtually incommunicado. The communique adds that the situation is grave and President Chamorro has had to suspend her trip to Colombia a second time.

The president had planned to visit Colombia last 5 March [as received], but her visit was canceled due to the attempted coup d'etat in Venezuela.

The governments of Colombia and Nicaragua had announced that next week they would sign several commercial and cultural cooperation agreements between the two countries.

Government Spokesman Says Situation 'Normal'

PA0205172192 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] On 1 May, Government Ministry spokesman Frank Cesar announced that the rebel issue has been resolved and the country is at peace. Cesar recounted the efforts made by Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, saying that the most relevant issue was the culmination of a dialogue between the government and members of the Association of Retired Soldiers. This, he said, has been one of the most important issues due to the working people's desire to work in peace.

[Begin Cesar recording] On 1 May, a meeting was held with the National Peasant Coordinating Board in Rivas Department. The meeting began at 1100 on 1 May and ended at 0300 on 2 May. Important agreements were reached based on the government and President Violeta Chamorro's resolve to fulfill the agreements.

The peasants received a broad explanation of the government's position regarding the legalization of lands held by cooperatives and peasants who have benefited from agrarian reform. As a result of this meeting, at 0700 on 2 May the peasants began to leave the institutions they had occupied in Rivas Department, especially in the city of Rivas.

On the morning of 2 May, Government Minister Mendieta met with the Association of Retired Soldiers. At this meeting, a schedule was prepared where the retired soldiers will receive the urban lots the government had pledged to give them. Attending this meeting, in addition to the government minister, were members of the

Armed Forces General Staff. The meeting ended satisfactorily, and at this moment certain roadblocks set up by the retired soldiers on the highway to Esteli and near Cebaco are being removed, and the situation throughout the entire nation is normal.

Humberto Reyes, the government minister's delegate in Chinandega, is meeting with the retired soldiers of that department. This meeting, also, is progressing in a satisfactory manner. I will be providing further information once the talks are over, but I wanted to report that so far the situation in the country is normal.

I must also take advantage of this opportunity to announce that in Region 5 the situation is also totally normal. Following the talks with the recontra and recompa general staffs, the rebels agreed to remove the barricades they had erected on the Juigalpa and Santo Tomas exits.

Summarizing the entire situation, the country is calm, the talks have evolved in a courteous, amiable atmosphere, and the results of the talks have been favorable to all Nicaraguans. [end recording]

Cesar also referred to the revueltos [mixed group of recontras and recompas], who have maintained their positions on the highway leading to the city of Leon.

[Begin Cesar recording] At the La Leona bridge a group of individuals are blocking traffic; they block traffic for one hour, then allow traffic to flow for one hour. The Government Ministry's delegate in Region 2 received precise instructions from Government Minister Mendieta on 2 May to talk with them and seek a solution to this problem.

It is important to point out—as comprehensive agreements are reached with the Association of Retired Soldiers—that many of the individuals at the road blocks belong to this organization. Having concluded the meeting in a satisfactory manner, we hope that on 2 May the individuals at the La Leona bridge in Leon will withdraw from the area. [end recording]

Security Measures Increased in Capital

PA0105191192 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 May 92

[From the nonofficial "Extravision" newscast, directed by Manuel Espinoza, former information minister under the Ortega administration]

[Text] The Government Ministry increased security measures in the capital. Dozens of policemen were posted on all streets leading to Managua. Since 30 April, dozens of National Police patrol cars have been deployed in several points in Managua. Officers in charge of the units refused to give statements. There were rumors, however, this action was due to indications the revueltos' [mixed group of recontras and recompas] protests will be moved to the capital. Commander Rene Vivas, National Police director, admitted these were preventive measures.

[Begin Vivas recording] We have been trying to talk to the people here in Managua, with historical combatants, and with [words indistinct] to avoid something happening in Managua that could alter the normal situation in the capital due to a lack of communication, dialogue, or a lack of revision of some matters not yet complied with. This is the reason for the checkpoints. Besides, it is normal for the police to install these checkpoints just before a holiday, as this is a long weekend. We have to control road traffic, weapons, and other things, such as criminal actions. This can be considered a routine action by the police force, although we are also trying to avoid, as much as possible, the outbreak of unnecessary disturbances in the capital. [end recording]

H. Ortega Said Behind 'Unconventional Forces'

PA0405143592 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 May 92 p 5

[Text] The Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP) on 30 April accused General Humberto Ortega of sewing anarchy, given the existence of unconventional forces armed with war materiel. In the past few days, these forces have staged armed protests against the government in various parts of the country.

In a communique issued on 30 April, the COSEP described the existence of these unconventional forces as outrageous and incredible. The communique said COSEP believes that Gen. Ortega has two armies: an official Army and an "unofficial" Army formed by former members of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], who are in active retirement and who stage all the land and highway occupations and cause economic instability.

According to the COSEP, the protests staged by thousands of poor peasants to demand that the government fulfill the agreements it signed regarding the distribution of land and credits for production "have negative repercussions on national investments and frighten foreign investors away."

For COSEP, headed by Ramiro Gurdian, the result of the armed protests is that there will be no economic reactivation or increased production, while unemployment, hunger, and poverty will increase, all "because of a total lack of respect for private property."

The COSEP feels the protests staged by the revueltos [mixed group of recontras and recompas] "constitute an uprising by several FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] groups to destabilize the country and gain concessions from the government."

COSEP believes that if the government makes concessions to the FSLN "it would harm and further intensify

the country's economic, political, and social crisis, because brute force would prevail over the law."

On 29 April the FSLN filed a proposal whereby the government could begin resolving the problem posed by the demand for land, land ownership, restructuring the peasant debt, financing, lots, and all of the aspects contained in each of the 30 agreements signed on different occasions by the government and revueltos.

The government displayed openness toward the FSLN's proposals to peacefully resolve the current crisis.

Cuban Delegation Announces Trade 'Could' Resume

PA0205192692 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 May 92 p 7

[Text] Members of a Cuban medical delegation, who for several months will render assistance to the homeless resulting from the Cerro Negro volcano, announced to BARRICADA on 30 April that Nicaragua and Cuba could renew trade in June, and that both countries may sign cooperation and exchange agreements worth approximately $6 million.

The delegation, headed by Cuban Health Vice Minister Jorge Antelo, on 30 April accompanied Nicaraguan Health Minister Ernesto Salmeron on a reconnaissance flight over the area affected by the recent volcanic eruption.

In view of the amazing spectacle offered by the craters of the Cerro Negro, San Cristobal, Momotombo, and Apoyeque volcanoes; Vicente Muniz, counselor of the Cuban Embassy in Managua, explained that a technical commission will arrive in Nicaragua in May to prepare the terms of the agreement.

Muniz gave assurances that the draft agreement could be ready for signing by the end of June. This would renew trade cooperation between both countries after a suspension of more than a year.

Roberto Rivas, representative of Cuba's Foreign Trade Ministry, explained that what has been planned is the exchange of medical supplies, medicine, and specialized personnel from Cuba for Nicaraguan agriculture and cattle products.

Medicuba Vice President Julian Gutierrez and a member of the delegation, expressed the hope the agreements will be renewed "because no formal delivery of Cuban medicines are being made to Nicaragua at present."

The officials estimate the agreement could reach $5 million a year, "although Minister Salmeron told us $6 million," Muniz said.

The medical mission, requested weeks ago by Salmeron during a trip to Cuba, will arrive in Leon to start work for two months. The medical team comprises specialists in ophthalmology, pediatrics, and epidemiology.

The Cuban Government delegation returns to Havana this afternoon after the mission is formally installed.

Managua Church Council Reports Threats

PA0305171492 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 May 92 p 10

[Text] The Presbyterial Council of Managua Archdiocese has reiterated its charge that threats have been made against Cardinal Miguel Obando and the cathedral, by "groups of known political affiliation."

The Archdiocese's consultative group, made up of priests from the Managua Archdiocese, issued a communique noting they have received testimonies confirming "there have been threats against people and institutions of the Catholic Church."

Monsignor Silvio Fonseca, secretary of the Presbyterial Council, confirmed there is evidence about these threats "which worry the priests."

Although he did not point to any specific political group or party he added: "People can draw their own conclusions."

He reiterated remarks made by Cardinal Obando regarding threats to dynamite the cathedral, which is under construction. He added that the archbishop of Managua had received written threats and anonymous telephone calls.

He said this is part of a campaign by "a group of people bent on discrediting and slandering the Catholic Church." According to Msgr. Fonseca, the appearance of Marco Antonio Bonilla, known as Jesus of the Poor "is linked to all this movement."

The priest said that, in view of this situation, they voiced their concern to the government, "because it is responsible for safeguarding the security of the citizens, however, no response has been received."

Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo stated on 30 April that the government is willing to give protection to Cardinal Obando and will place the cathedral site under surveillance to prevent any problems so "the government will not be accused of omission."

* Law 144 Governing National Police Praised

92CA0137A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Mar 92 p 10

[Commentary by Alfonso Davila Barbosa]

[Text] In the next few days the Law on National Police Functions Related to Judicial Assistance, which has already been approved and signed by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, will be published; this law is commonly known under its short title as Law 144. I will discuss its text in order to disseminate information for the benefit of legal colleagues, law students, and the citizens in general. The present law is in close harmony

with the principles of the Nicaraguan political constitution and also with well-defined provisions concerning the respect, promotion, and protection of human rights and the strict observance of the rights contained in the Universal Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the International Pact on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the UN International Agreement on Civil and Political Rights, and the American Human Rights Convention of the Organization of American States. For reasons of methodology, we must begin by saying that our political constitution states in very clear language that the right to life is inviolable, that there is no death penalty, and that it is essential to guarantee the liberty and security of the individual and to recognize his personal integrity and legal capacity.

I call upon each member of the National Police, including those in charge of training and their commander-in-chief, to study and analyze with patriotic spirit each and every one of the provisions of Law 144, so that they may provide true assistance to the judiciary, the repository of the unity of jurisdiction promoted and supported by the principles of law, which protects and guards human rights through the application of the law in appropriate matters.

Every day the police are called upon, without reservation, to protect people's lives, physical integrity, and security, and also to prevent crime, to preserve public order, and ensure that national, social, and individual property are respected. I believe that this assistance to the judicial authority should be provided with the best intentions, as it is essential for the proper administration of justice and a visible execution of judicial mandates. It is a constitutional principle that "decisions and resolutions of the tribunals and courts are binding upon state authorities, organizations, individuals, and companies."

One outstanding feature of this law is that each member of the police may, acting on his own initiative, take the first steps in response to a criminal action and then the investigation may be continued when the Specialized National Police Unit arrives at the scene of the crime. Each police unit must carefully and respectfully take statements, provide aid for the victim, order the arrest of the suspect, protect evidence, take possession of objects, effects, and weapons involved in the commission of the crime or crimes, guarantee that the suspect or group of suspects has access to a defense attorney, and protect the physical integrity of the arrested party. One highly significant point in this law is that the suspect or his defense attorney may request from the chief of the police unit that the prisoner be first examined by a forensic physician to determine that the prisoner was in good physical and mental condition at the time of his arrest.

This suspect will be held under police custody and investigated for 72 hours; he will then be turned over to a magistrate or released. If he is turned over to a magistrate, the police may continue to provide the courts with new evidence. Defendants who are ill or incapacitated, pregnant women, or persons whose circumstances so warrant may be released provisionally upon payment of a bond. All searches must be conducted in accordance with criminal investigations regulations and ordered by a criminal judge. For that reason, fluid and open communications must be maintained between the criminal court judge and the police in charge of criminal investigations, so that they may provide each other with mutual assistance, thus dealing with crime and preventing the guilty from going unpunished.

* FSLN's 'Double Message' Criticized

92CA0137B Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Mar 92 p 14

[Editorial: "Last Chance for the FSLN"]

[Text] Sandinism, and specifically the National Directorate, continues to wield the double and contradictory language it has used ever since it became an opposition party. Before that, during its 10 years of rigid dictatorship, the Sandinist Directorate was not troubled by these contradictions; each comandante had his specific area of influence within which he allowed no outside interference.

The Sandinists, absorbed by extending their ideological program and by the use of force in all its manifestations, were not much concerned about making alterations that might give their flagging economic program enough pragmatism to redirect its course. A timid attempt was made when a group of businessmen accompanied an official delegation to Europe to seek financial aid and in February 1989 when they suggested working together, a proposal rejected by powerful interest groups. Those were the final days of the dictatorship in its death throes. That attempt came too late.

It is worthwhile to mention this, as there has been some speculation that if the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] had won the 1990 elections its economic program would have been more liberal than the present government's. Sandinism would have had to accept the "IMF-type" of proposals they now criticize with the ease allowed by their authoritarian heritage and the hierarchical decision-making process.

Now, in its role as an opposition party on the outside, drowning in internal contradictions, challenged by groups trying to serve as the party's conscience, with profound divisions concerning both the party's substance and its leadership, discredited by the enrichment of many of its leaders in a flagrant violation and a display of contempt for the poverty and misery of their grassroots, and influenced by the inevitable winds of democracy encouraging Nicaraguans to discuss and dissent as a logical and natural part of the democratic process, Sandinism is growing disoriented and confused.

What is serious is that they are transferring this confusion to other segments of our society. We Nicaraguans who demonstrated in the past election that we do not have confidence in the FSLN are wondering if with their double language and their typical duplicity they may not

be trying once again to deceive the government and people of Nicaragua—putting on a big "show" to create a general destabilizing situation to weaken the government before the elections in 1996.

We can not ignore the existence of a structural adjustment with serious political and economic consequences. These are the hidden costs incurred during a transition from an authoritarian regime to democracy and from a planned economy to a free market system. The elimination of subsidies, political gifts, and donations and the remission of debts cause this traumatic transition when power is lost, and Sandinism is feeling its effects. It is not fair to make all the Nicaraguan people suffer the pangs and consequences of this.

In a new Nicaragua there is no room for a double message or for demagoguery. Nicaragua demands that moral duplicity be left aside, demands that their words be converted into deeds when they say they are in favor of stability, and especially that they respect people who have suffered for their determination to construct what Sandinism had left in ruins.

There is no reason why we the people of Nicaragua should pay the costs of an internal situation in which the Sandinists are trapped by the same Marxist orthodoxy and obstinacy that led them to the disaster from which we are now trying to recover. The FSLN's secretary general, Daniel Ortega, announced today that his party will hold a Sandinist Assembly this weekend to define its position on the government and its policies. There is only one route left for the FSLN, one they still seem to be ignoring: that is to realize that if they do not participate in the process of rebuilding the nation, if they do not help to promote reconciliation, democracy, and peace, they will be condemned to disappear as a real political force in this new democratic era.

* FSLN 'Solutions' to Crisis Explored

92CA0137C Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Mar 92 p 14

[Commentary by Moises Hassan]

[Text] The expected crisis—which has been brewing since the spectacular defeat of 25 February—has now reached the middle and upper levels of the once powerful Sandinist Front and has emerged into the light of day. Countless speculations—necessarily contradictory—are heard, and more than a little confusion has been generated about this crisis, inferior in number and complexity only to those heard inside the afflicted and decimated membership that consists of those who still cling desperately, either to the myth they stubbornly refuse to see crumbling or to the source of shameless material privileges and of a satisfied lust for power. In this article, it is my intention to share some thoughts on this crucial topic.

It was probably the head of the Army—who, significantly, was the only one whom the defeat left with real alternatives—who first anticipated the crisis and prepared to deal with it.

With notable speed and the valuable support of the current minister of the presidency, he drafted a political plan that he proposed to put into practice, preferably with the support of the Front—or more realistically, of some sectors of it, and if necessary, without that support. It is possible to identify at least three necessary—though not sufficient—conditions for the program in question to have some significant likelihood of success. The first of these is to transform the Army from a partisan force to a personal guard. It cannot be denied that the head of the Army has made great progress in this direction. He immediately seized upon the proclaimed reduction in the armed forces as an opportunity, served up on a silver platter, to get rid of some undesirable elements—persons of doubtful reliability, people who were disoriented—of whom there is never any lack, one could say in general about our history—or those who might foolishly believe that political thinking and activity are not the exclusive right of generals. The best example of this is former Colonel Javier Pichardo, who was expelled quite violently from the Air Force staff. There are many more such cases, less blatant and less well known. And there will be others.

The recess the National Assembly was required by law to take in December 1990 afforded our alert general a second golden opportunity: by using the power to legislate that the Executive held during that recess, he got the Executive to issue a law that, among other wonders, anoints him as commander for life of the military. All his present and future subordinates will just have to have the patience of Job. I can well imagine some unimaginative colleague in the Southern Cone, lacking his originality and audacity, now growing pale with envy. Ominously, the former Sandinist People's Army is now quickly and thoroughly being transformed into a personal armed force.

There is a second condition that our ambitious personage needs to convert into a pleasing reality: nothing more or less than absolute control of state powers. It is my opinion that in the short term of about two years some significant advances have been made in that regard. Through his association with the minister of the presidency, the head of the Army already exercises a significant degree of dominion over the Executive, and via that same route he has managed to assemble—though not yet consolidate—a group of representatives in the National Assembly who, under the euphemistic name of "center group," on some important occasions have managed to sway—acting together with the Front's submissive bench—the decisions of the legislative body to favor the ruling coalition's interests. Of course, this alleged "center group" has yet to promote alternative positions to the supposed extremes, or to use its weight to force those extremes to negotiate compromise positions. That clearly defines it.

For judicial and electoral powers, I have the impression that the situation is somewhat more complex, so it would be premature to express a decisive view now. Still, it is not too much to say that the associates exercise a considerable influence and capacity to apply pressure on both powers. It is imperative, though, for them to convert their influence and ability to exert pressure into mastery and control; that will give them the power to declare any troublesome law unconstitutional and to forge a documentation process shaped to suit their strategic interests.

And there you have almost everything, but one element is still missing: the United States. This is the third and most elusive necessity our illustrious general is still seeking in his zealous pursuit of his cherished plan to become the new feudal lord of Nicaragua and of the Nicaraguan people. That explains the elastic inclinations, the touching statements, the emotional displays. There is only one unpleasant reality, one irritating obstacle: Washington does not believe in tears or honeyed words; they are not decisive factors in formulating its foreign policy.

While the head of the Army relentlessly pursues his personal plans, the ship he has almost abandoned continues to take in water on all sides. In fact, the hopes of surviving the devastating February 1990 coup have been painfully fading away; those hopes were pinned basically on two illusory—I believe time has shown this by now—suppositions. The first was the assumption that it would be relatively simple to impute total responsibility for the economic and moral disaster Nicaragua is experiencing to the present government. By doing so, the government would lose its supporters, who might be largely recovered by the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]. That has happened only partially. Of course the government has shown an amazing capacity to arouse popular ill will, but so has the Front, which, torn between incredulity and despair, has watched impotently as the base it still had in February 1990 has been slipping away at a growing rate. And those are not mere allegations or wishful thinking. Recently high level FSLN leaders said that now they could barely mobilize 10 percent of the activists they used to have in the past; if that is the figure they will admit in public, we can infer—with almost absolute certainty—that in reality that figure is below five percent. That is what is left of the Front's once impressive support. By itself the former argument would not be sufficient, but photographs in the official papers now show the Front's top leaders—including its magnificent secretary general—haranguing a few dozen people, where years ago there would have been crowds. Supposed massive protest demonstrations have been reduced to pitiful and hostile clusters of activists.

The second assumption on which many once placed their hopes of seeing the nightmare vanish was generated by the famous transition protocol. As we pointed out earlier, by embracing his own political program in which the remnants of the Front play a marginal role—when not acting as an obstacle—the head of the Army has taken it upon himself to destroy any optimistic expectations arising from that protocol.

Mercilessly repudiated in the elections, with their base of support rapidly breaking up, impotent witnesses of a pact in which there is space only for those who support the general's coronation and fall into step behind him, the remaining members of the leadership, victims struggling for survival, realize with anguish that their last, desperate hope cannot be glimpsed on the horizon and that they are increasingly being left to their own devices. They are now placed in the dreadful alternative of either subordinating themselves to the plans of the Army chief for life, or finding a way out that they can not see a sign of anywhere.

The belated crisis has finally reached the upper levels. From the depths of their confusion and despair come bitter mutual recriminations, demands for the expulsion of certain persons, varied and conflicting proposals about strategies to return to their lost power; they complain and struggle out in the open, in front of everyone's expectant eyes. The thick cloak of silence, which used to cover up intestinal disputes in order to preserve intact the naive or interested unity of the grassroots, is now becoming a stifling hood. With that grassroots in the process of disintegration, keeping quiet makes no sense anymore; there is less and less to preserve. They must desperately seek ways to slow down or turn around the fatal breakup. There is no silence anymore—if not a gentle and modest resignation to expire in peace so that the agony may seem to be a dream, now that there will be no return to lost glories.

* Apathy, Purpose of FSLN Elections Discussed

92CA0137D Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Mar 92 p 3

[Commentary by Onofre Guevara L.]

[Text] The FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] local elections, required by the party bylaws, initially did not seem to interest the activists and members very much. A number of factors contributed to this apathy, but none so much that they were not justified or so that a good percentage of the membership would sit them out.

I confess that it also took me a bit of an effort to develop much interest in chairing the Electoral Committee for District III. Both personal and collective enthusiasm was lacking, and there was also the inclination to do nothing after a long period of partisan inactivity.

But the "vacation" came to an end. As the physical and mental mechanisms started up and got us Sandinists moving, the FSLN began to show the activity demanded by its well-merited condition as the sole political party—but not the only party—worthy of that name in Nicaragua. And no sooner said than done, the Front once

again reduced the gap between claiming to be and actually being a political party.

The internal election process—which covers a large part of the geographic area in which we are active, which is the entire nation, reveals some facts we already knew, even though they have unjustly been forgotten.

To cite one example: even with all the FSLN's troubles and the current crisis, no matter how much our opponents would like that crisis to deepen until it ends up dividing us, the participation of the membership in the Managua districts exceeded the participation at any national assembly of any of the conventional parties. And let there be no mistake about it; it also exceeded the participation levels of several traditional parties combined.

The party's representative nature is unquestionably democratic. There is no social sector or human activity not represented by those attending these electoral assemblies. Everything confirms the pluralist nature of the FSLN's social makeup.

The Sandinist electoral process, conducted in compliance with the standards of honesty and respect for individual and collective opinions that the world recognized in the FSLN in the general elections in 1990, renewed the Sandinist leadership on a local level. This is a lesson for people inside and outside the party, as the FSLN leadership is almost always associated only with the National Directorate. Now people will have more reason to grasp the importance of this renovation throughout the FSLN's entire territorial and popular fabric.

Honestly, we must repeat that the FSLN's internal elections were never intended or planned to offer definitive solutions for the FSLN's problems. They are not, and will not be, a panacea. But they did reflect an unexpectedly high level of political motivation. There was also collective concern shown about offering proposals for a programmatic and organic solution.

Of course, we still need to deal with problems and assess some of the phenomena that appeared during this electoral activity. One: why were there so few women candidates, when women were not exactly a minority among those who voted? Two: did young people participate in the same percentage as their membership in Sandinism would warrant, both as voters and as candidates? Three: how will the fact that the new district leaders come almost totally from the worker-peasant sector affect the reactivation of the membership in general?

There is no doubt about it. Some answers will be given by statistics, and others will come from the party's political activity. However that may be, from an organization like the FSLN, which is still alive and kicking, we expect continued questions and answers about any of its activities.

* Commentary Urges FSLN To Fight Hunger, Poverty

92CA0137E Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 24 Mar 92 p 4

["Letter to the FSLN" by Luis Omar Cruces Caro, dated 8 Mar 92]

[Text] Sandinist militants and comrades: If yesterday under Somozism the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] could lead our country's libertarian struggles, I do not see why today we cannot serve in the forefront of the current battle that our nation continues to fight (the fight for survival).

Let me say to you frankly that I have the impression that our vanguard has done nothing in recent months but devote themselves fully to the game of "give me whatever I tell you," mistakenly forgetting the role they are called upon to play in the midst of this "historic accident" that, in one way or another, will have to be corrected in the near future (1996).

Comrades in Sandinism, it is not my wish to stir up arguments, but to bring us together; let me make a few sound suggestions that, even though they are very modest, I believe will effectively help to "renew" or "oxygenate" our revolutionary organization, and they will also help to move us away from the states of "inertia" and "vegetation."

With the hope that I have your close attention, I will now move immediately to these suggestions:

1. The FSLN should begin an international campaign to save the lives of our children who, because of criminal neoliberal policies, are dying every day of hunger and of curable diseases in most of our nation's cities and rural areas. Through this appeal, funds and donations could be generated and used to set up soup kitchens and clinics as soon as possible wherever they are needed.

2.The FSLN should also obtain some type of external financing to build housing to directly benefit our homeless militant brothers, especially those disabled or orphaned by the war, who are the ones most seriously affected; the FSLN has a moral obligation to help these people.

3.In the media in which the FSLN has some involvement or control, it should make them realize that they should not seek to relax in the shade of the neoliberal "paradise" (a ruthless sort of "paradise," in which it is every man for himself); instead, now more than ever, they should identify with the people who founded these media. The media have an obligation to the people, who are their true owners.

4.The FSLN should play a leadership role in the just struggles that thousands and thousands of demobilized combattants are fighting today in northern Nicaragua (whether recompas or recontras), to make the government fulfill its commitments to them.

5.The FSLN should also play a leadership role by espousing the just demands of workers who are fighting for their rights all over the country; it should demand that the neoliberal government create new jobs for the thousands and thousands of unemployed workers.

6.Instead of trying to enter the Socialist International or the "Club of Rich European Proleterians," the FSLN should try to raise consciousness in our own continent, so that in the not very distant future all of us, working together, may create a "Latin American Community," inspired and governed by the ever vital ideologies of our Bolivar and our Marti.

In closing, accept fraternal and revolutionary greetings from a strong admirer of Sandino, from one who is always ready to serve you.

Panama

Endara: NEW YORK TIMES Charges False

PA0105202692 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 1 May 92 p 1A

[By Arnulfo Barroso Watson]

[Text] On 30 April, President Guillermo Endara described as insulting an article by THE NEW YORK TIMES. The publication says that Panama's economic recovery in the last two years might be financed by drug trafficking operations.

THE NEW YORK TIMES allegations are false and are part of a campaign being waged against Panama by U.S. newspapers, the president stated. He said that the country's economic recovery is due to government efforts and the Panamanian private sector, and has nothing to do with drug trafficking. None of the groups that have participated in the dynamics of the Panamanian economy has had any affiliation with drug trafficking activities, the chief executive said during his regular Thursday news conference.

THE NEW YORK TIMES published on 28 April an article stating "that Panama has registered a surprising economic recovery, perhaps financed by drug trafficking groups." The North American newspaper article stresses that last year, Panama experienced a growth of 9.5 percent, the largest in Latin America, following a decrease of more than 15 percent of its gross national product.

Coup d'etat

The president said that the statements of Emilio de Leon, first district attorney of Chiriqui Province, are "false." De Leon implicates four former U.S. military officers in the alleged coup d'etat of 4 and 5 December 1990.

The officers of the U.S. Southern Command have been very respectful of Panamanian sovereignty and have assisted democracy a great deal, Endara explained.

The president said he did not know what evidence the Attorney General's Office has to implicate the former U.S. officers in the December 1990 coup attempt, adding that he will not believe the allegations until shown otherwise.

Late last week, First District Attorney Emilio De Leon reported that four former officers at the U.S. Southern Command, among them Colonel Richard Steele, were involved in the abortive coup attempt led by Colonel Eduardo Herrera.

News Conference

PA0105155592 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] In a news conference on 30 April, President Guillermo Endara confirmed he will visit Colon Province on 5 May. President Endara responded to remarks by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, who has said there is a lot of incompetence among the government's leaders.

[Begin Endara recording] Regarding Mr. Cruz' remarks, I must say I have not paid much attention to them. It really displeases me when Mr. Cruz meddles in political affairs. I think he should act like the nation's attorney general and not meddle in political affairs. High-ranking officials of institutions that should be apolitical have been criticized for meddling in politics. [end recording]

Endara also described as an insult the insinuations that Panama's economic development is due to drug trafficking. The president was referring to reports in THE NEW YORK TIMES.

President Endara reported on the Foreign Ministry's efforts to arrange for experts to visit and study the craters that have appeared in Chiriqui Province.

[Begin Endara recording, in progress] ...some famous Soviet volcanologists are now in Nicaragua. The foreign minister and I have decided to invite them to Panama so they can observe the phenomenon and give us their opinions. [end recording]

President Endara referred to U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton's remarks about charges that U.S. military officers were involved in the coup attempt on 4 and 5 December 1990. The president shared the U.S. ambassador's view that such charges are simply a fantasy.

President Endara's Message to Workers on 1 May

PA0105200392 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 1 May 92 p 2

[Message by President Guillermo Endara to workers on International Workers Day]

[Text] I pay homage to my country's workers, who by their great efforts participate in the building of a new nation.

The national government, in accordance with its democratic philosophy, has taken steps to foster a national dialogue between society and labor. The government believes that is the most effective way to increase production and improve the general condition of the national economy.

Those steps have resulted in a climate of great understanding between capitalists and workers. The government provided employment counseling to over 15,000 workers. A total of 3,500 individual and collective mediations were effected; 75 percent of labor conflicts were resolved. Ninety internal work regulations were approved; more than 4,000 work inspections were carried out; $10 million in workmen's compensation agreements; and 10 directly negotiated collective bargaining contracts, benefiting more than 1,500 workers, were signed.

We have and will continue to respect the Labor Code. We will defend unions' rights to fight for their gains and the compulsory payment of union dues, in accordance with Labor Code Article 373, which reads:

"Every employer is obligated to deduct regular and special dues from union members. Amounts are to be determined by the labor unions and turned over to the unions every month."

Union dues or any other rights stated in the law are the result of struggles that have cost workers—internationally and locally—lives, blood, grief, and pain.

I invite all the nation's production sectors to work hard so that together, we can achieve a better future for our children.

Capital and labor are the backbone that supports the nation's development. Panama needs both in order to progress united, in peace and liberty.

Sergeants Reportedly Stage 30 Apr Rebellion

PA0305033092 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 2 May 92 p 1A

[By Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] A rebellion, which according to unofficial reports was led by 10 sergeants and included the temporary takeover of the Balboa police headquarters, took place on the evening of 30 April. However, the National Police described the operation as an action to facilitate the escape of former Captain Evidelio Quiel Peralta.

A source indicated that at 2100 on 30 April, Sergeant Luis Arce appeared at Balboa police headquarters armed with an M-16 rifle and temporarily subdued the officer in charge, Capt. Sergio Espinoza, and other police officers. He indicated that he was part of a national movement of sergeants who are tired of the corruption of higher ranking officers.

Arce was later subdued by Capt. Espinoza. However, before he was subdued, Arce managed to radio a coded message to the other members of his group, who remained at the house of former Capt. Evidelio Quiel. Quiel enjoyed the benefits of house arrest in the same area.

At the same time, in the home of Quiel, 10 heavily armed hooded individuals wearing ski masks subdued and arrested two police officers who were guarding former Capt. Quiel, but the driver of the police car who transported the officers realized what had happened and reported it to the Ancon police headquarters.

Police Executive Secretary Javier Cherigo, who claimed that the events of 30 April were only intended to facilitate the escape of Quiel, has stated that the former officer and the individuals who remained in his home escaped from the residence in two vehicles. They took with them the two captured police officers, who were released near the Bridge of the Americas.

Cherigo said that the wife and children of Evidelio Quiel left the residence at 1800 on 30 April and had not returned.

At the same time, the National Police captured a former military member linked to former Capt. Quiel near the Balboa police headquarters. The military member was riding in a vehicle owned by Sgt. Luis Arce. Ammunition and communications equipment that used the police frequency were being transported in the vehicle. At the same time, police arrested Gabriel Aparicio, a civilian, near "El Renacer" jail.

An arrest warrant was issued for Aparicio in Chiriqui and, according to reports by the prosecuting office, he is linked with former officers Luis Cordoba and Nivaldo Madrinan. When he was arrested he was carrying an identification card allegedly issued by the Institutional Protection Service.

According to members of the prosecutor's office, all these incidents of 30 April seemed to be leading to a massive jail break by arrested officers, or that everything was a plan to seize the garrisons.

The authorities have been unable to capture former Capt. Quiel, an officer trained in scuba diving, parachuting, and irregular warfare. He was also involved in the executions of those who participated in the 3 October 1989 coup movement against Noriega.

Because of wounds he sustained in clashes near the Morelos statue during the U.S. invasion, Quiel was only under house arrest. Sgt. Arce, who is being held by the Judicial Technical Police, told interrogators that the takeover of the Balboa headquarters was intended to protest the murder of members of the National Police in recent weeks.

Capital Rally Ends With Burning of U.S. Flag

PA0205001392 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 May 92

[Report by David Salayandia]

[Text] Labor groups in Panama City and the interior today marked Labor Day with various activities. Labor and Social Welfare Minister Jorge Ruben Rosas went to Chiriqui Province to attend the events organized by the banana workers' unions in Puerto Armuelles. Similar ceremonies were held in Bocas del Toro, Veraguas, and Cocle Provinces.

Meanwhile, in Panama City workers participated in a march held in the morning. The ceremony in Panama City began at 0900 at Porras Square. Workers from different unions and organizations gathered here to mark labor day. Various union leaders spoke during a rally to criticize the government's actions, chiefly the negotiations with international financial organizations.

[Begin unidentified union leader recording] We are determined to fight because unemployment is on the rise. The government wants to divide us by trying to deceive the unemployed by giving them the old line that those holding jobs are to blame for the lack of new jobs, and that the problem of joblessness can be solved by rolling back our gains. The government fails to understand it will never be able to divide us from the unemployed, because the unemployed are our fathers, children, brothers, relatives, friends, and neighbors. [end recording]

Following the Porras Square rally, the workers marched along the Calidonia area all the way up to the 5 May Square. There the ceremony ended with the burning of a U.S. flag.

Colon Activists Reject Planned Meeting Site

PA0305222392 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 2 May 92 p 1a

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] Activists of the Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed (MODESCO) announced on 1 May that they would not meet with President Guillermo Endara on 5 May if the government insists on carrying out the scheduled meeting at the Brazos Brook U.S. military installation.

MODESCO leader Felipe Cabezas stated that the commission appointed by the government to coordinate the meeting had decided to conduct the meeting at Brazos Brook, a plush installation located near Fort Davis and Fort Domingo Espinar, in the corregimiento of Cristobal.

Cabezas indicated that MODESCO is against the designated site, first because the continuing problem is not in Brazos Brook, but in the city of Colon. Second, when Endara needed votes to be president he went to Colon, therefore he should not be afraid to go there now.

In addition, Cabezas said that the MODESCO proposal to the Coordinating Commission was to have the meeting in a church, either the San Jose Parish Church or the Cathedral. He insisted that all the necessary security guarantees would be extended to the president, which would not be the case if the commission insisted on having the meeting at Brazos Brook.

The Colon activist also stated that if an agreement is not reached with respect to changing the meeting site, there would be no meeting and the movement would continue with its street protests.

President Guillermo Endara had announced that he would meet with MODESCO on 5 May to respond to several petitions by the people of Colon concerning the resolution of the province's urgent problems in the areas of education, housing, health, and employment.

Brazil

Collor Calls For Patience in Labor Day Message

PY0105142792 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 1 May 92

[Excerpt] In a labor day message, President Fernando Collor has called for patience and admitted that the struggle against inflation has demanded sacrifices from the people.

In a message distributed by the presidential press secretariat, President Collor said that we must work together with the certainty that Brazil will succeed. Collor also said that the main requirement to achieve our objectives is to gain control of inflation. Collor added that labor day reminds us of the workers' struggle for freedom, and the right to expression, organization, and mobilization for a better standard of living. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Naming Moreira Petrobras Chief

PY0105225092 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 May 92 Economy and Business Section p 3

[By Suely Caldas]

[Text] Rio—Mines and Energy Minister Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Morais said yesterday that despite insistent Government House rumors, Benedito Moreira, former Cacex [Department of Foreign Trade] director, is not going to be the next president of Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation].

Although Pratini neither confirmed nor denied it, a high-ranking government source leaked to O ESTADO that the best candidate for the job is former Petrobras Industrial Director Roberto Villa, who is currently in charge of Petroquisa [Petrobras Chemical Corporation]. Moreira is currently in Europe, but he stated before leaving that he will not accept the appointment because his life is now "orderly and calm" and he wants to avoid duties that will take up too much of his time.

The truth is that the friendship between Pratini and Moreira prompted Military Household Chief General Agenor Homem de Carvalho and Presidency Secretary General Marcos Coimbra, both of whom have easy access to President Fernando Collor, to leak the former Cacex director's name as a possible candidate.

In response to reports published by the press yesterday, Minister Pratini de Morais said: "If Benedito Moreira were to take oath on 4 May, his appointment would have been published in the official gazette today, and this did not happen."

The minister added that as of yet, no names have been proposed to the president of the nation. He promised that the name of the new Petrobras president will be made public next week.

Roberto Villa, a long-time career official in Petrobras, is respected within the company as a competent, honest person. In addition to his qualifications of engineer and manager, the former industrial director has political abilities as well.

During President Sarney's administration he was largely responsible for ending an oil workers strike that had reached a point that was not in the best interests of the government, the striking workers, or the Army, which was involved in a military occupation of the refineries.

When he was the industrial director, Villa went to Brasilia and organized a meeting between [labor leaders] Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva and Jair Menegelli and then Mines and Energy Minister Aureliano Chaves. At the end of the meeting, the United Federation of Workers convinced the oil workers to end their strike, the government agreed to satisfy some of the workers' demands, and the Army left the refineries.

Minister Pratini de Morais promised that he will not reshuffle the executive boards of the electric power companies. Jose Maria Siqueira, former transport secretary for former Sao Paulo governor Paulo Maluf will continue as head of Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Company Inc.], and the current presidents of the subsidiaries (Furnas [Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc], Eletrosul [Southern Electric Power Plants], Chesf [Sao Francisco Hydroelectric Company], and Eletronorte [Northern Electric Powerplants]) will also retain their jobs. The minister explained that "small changes will take place only when necessary."

Weber Comments on Dismissal

PY0105223492 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 May 92 Economy and Business Section p 3

[By Luiz Carlos D'Avila]

[Text] Belo Horizonte—As of the afternoon of 30 April, when he dedicated the Gabriel Passos Refinery gas pipeline in Betim, in the metropolitan region of Belo Horizonte, Ernesto Teixeira Weber, president of Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation], did not know that he had been fired. Although the media knew about his dismissal, Weber stressed that he had not been told that he had been replaced by Benedito Moreira, former director of the Bank of Brazil's Department of Foreign Trade. Planalto Palace has scheduled Moreira to take over the post on 4 May.

"I am not fired, and Mines and Energy Minister [Marcus] Pratini de Morais and President Fernando Collor are the ones who will decide whether I stay on," Weber said. Always trying to change the subject, Weber stated that Petrobras' goal is to achieve an internal production of one million barrels of oil a day. Currently, the enterprise is producing 670,000 barrels a day, and it

will be producing 720,000 a day by the end of the year. He also guaranteed that fuel prices will not go up because they are current.

"I am still in my position," Weber said while he was visiting the refinery. "Today I am the president of Petrobras, and I just learned from the media that as of 4 May, I will no longer be the president," he said. "Therefore," he stressed, "I must keep the enterprise running." Regarding Benedito Moreira, Weber said: "He is a competent person who has been brilliant in the public posts he has occupied."

Colombia

Government, CNGSB Suspend Peace Negotiations

PA0205234992 Paris AFP in Spanish 2227 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Bogota, 2 May (AFP)—It was officially announced on 2 May that the Colombian Government and the guerrillas have indefinitely suspended the peace negotiations that had been underway in Tlaxcala, Mexico.

In Bogota, the presidential palace released a government commission communique announcing that this decision was adopted after the rebel delegation requested a recess.

Recalling the efforts by the Catholic Church to persuade the parties to return to the talks and the government's proposals for accelerating the dialogue, the communique points out that "unfortunately, these efforts were not well received." The communique adds that "the government reiterates that the search for a political solution to the armed conflict in Colombia must prevail, as this would spare the country more sacrifice and sorrow."

The official communique goes on to say that "consequently, the government feels that if there is truly a willingness to continue with the peace process, the suspension should be defined and not entail a very long period, as this would set aside the hopes for peace of the Colombian people and maintain a useless confrontation."

The communique notes that "to protect the process, an atmosphere should prevail during the recess that will allow the resumption of the talks once the agreed upon term expires."

The government commission urges the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] to comply with its commitments of not carrying out attacks against political leaders, the civilian population, and the electrical or petroleum industry infrastructures.

The commission also calls for the release of Norberto Morales, former president of the lower chamber of Congress, who has been subjected to an "inadmissible people's trial" that violates human rights, as well as the release of all others—civilian and military—who have been kidnapped.

"The government hopes that the recess will help the CNGSB to clarify the representative status of some of its spokesmen in the talks, a situation that the government commission has formally brought up and which has not been resolved." The communique insists that this postponement should also serve "to prompt Colombian society to speak out against violence and for peace, so that when the dialogue is resumed there will be solidarity in the country, and therefore more stability."

The dialogue that began in mid-1991 in Caracas and then moved early in 1992 to Tlaxcala has been suspended on several occasions as a result of continued activities by the guerrillas, who, according to the government, seek to take the lead and establish a dominant position in the negotiations.

Government Surprised by Halt

PA0305025492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A in Spanish 0030 GMT 3 May 92

[Report on telephone interview with Horacio Serpa Uribe, presidential adviser for peace, in Tlaxcala, Mexico by Diana Leal, of Notivision newscast, in Bogota—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The government reacted with surprise to the decision of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] to suspend indefinitely the peace dialogue in Tlaxcala, Mexico. The government stated that to resume the talks, it is necessary that the recess be a short one.

The peace dialogue between the government and the CNGSB in Tlaxcala was suspended on 2 May for an indefinite period of time. Early on 2 May, the CNGSB formally requested that the negotiations be suspended.

[Serpa] "We said that in view of the request, there should be a recess in the dialogue. We hope that the recess will not be very long, that a date for resuming the talks will be set, and that certain conditions will be established so that the peace process will continue."

The representatives of the guerrillas said that they made this decision in view of the lack of agreement on the points under discussion.

[Serpa] "We have been told that it is important to make certain consultations on discussion of the agenda."

To resume the dialogue, the government has demanded that the CNGSB abide by the commitments made in Caracas.

[Serpa] "This means not carrying out attacks against political leaders and the civilian population and not carrying out attacks against public service facilities, such as the gas and oil pipelines. They should not conduct the trial they have announced against former Congressman Norberto Morales, because this is a violation of human rights. They should release the kidnapped civilians and military."

Could this be described as a defeat for the government?

[Serpa] "If there is any defeat at all, it is a defeat for the country."

The two parties continue to meet at this time to discuss the conditions for the recess. The government delegates and the CNGSB members will return to the country within the next few days.

Rebel Official Comments

PA0305202092 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] We have heard from FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] spokesman Alfonso Cano in Tlaxcala. One of Tirofijo's [Manuel Marulanda Velez] principle bodyguards was killed during clashes in La Uribe. The confrontation took place between the Armed Forces and Marulanda's personal guards. This has been reported by the Armed Forces and by Alfonso Cano, FARC's representative at the suspended peace talks.

Alfonso Cano, who had communicated with FARC's top leader Manuel Marulanda Velez, said from Tlaxcala, Mexico, that the incident had been reported to him.

[Begin Cano recording] There were clashes between guards of the high command and Mobile Brigade Number 1 forces lasting from 0800 till 1600. The results of these clashes are: 20 Mobile Brigade soldiers dead and 10 injured, while one helicopter was damaged, one M-60 machine gun and one Galil rifle were recovered by the guerrillas. During those clashes, four guerrillas were killed. This incident took place in the Paraiso hamlet, Uribe municipality. [end recording]

Regarding the future of the talks, Alfonso Cano said the government has not respected the points of the agreement for starting the fourth round of talks.

[Begin Cano recording] The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] feels it is not proper to set such a precedent, that is, to sign an agreement and then attempt to change it three or four days after it has been implemented. We do not want this to be the trend during the negotiations. We want the negotiations to be serious. We want the nation to know that if we make an agreement, we are going to fulfill it and we will fight for the commitments made by both sides. [end recording]

Here in Santa Fe de Bogota, peace adviser Jose Noe Rios said the CNGSB should reconsider its attitude, otherwise the talks will be recessed indefinitely.

[Begin Noe Rios recording] The CNGSB has not demonstrated a clear willingness for peace. The government has made all possible efforts. It has demonstrated its willingness with actions by granting the CNGSB opportunities to explain their political project and to explain the reason for their rebellion. The CNGSB, however, has not demonstrated the reciprocity that is so necessary in a negotiation. We will have to wait and see if during the recess these conditions occur, so when we come back to the negotiating table we can return with the fundamental principle of a negotiation—that is, negotiation has to take place. [end recording]

Rebels Reportedly Under Siege

PA0405014092 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0030 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Attention: The top leaders of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] were besieged by the Army on 3 May. [FARC leader] Tirofijo [Manuel Marulanda Velez] and his lieutenants are attempting to break the siege established by regular forces in La Uribe, Meta Department. According to an official bulletin, nine guerrillas have been killed, and among the military forces, four soldiers have been killed and five have been wounded.

During the afternoon of 3 May the four soldiers and one noncommissioned officer wounded in the clash with the FARC forces arrived in Bogota. According to military sources, the antiguerrilla forces of Mobile Brigade No. 1 are rapidly closing in on Tirofijo and other FARC leaders. The offensive is being carried out by air and land.

It would appear as if Tirofijo's security chief and eight other guerrillas were killed in the clashes. Five [as heard] soldiers were killed.

Meanwhile, in an offensive against the FARC in Yacopi, in the eastern part of Cundinamarca, the chief of the 22nd FARC Front and two other guerrillas were killed, and two female guerrillas were captured.

In Yacopi, the Army seized six rifles, two carbines, police uniforms, grenades, and war materiel. The military offensive continues throughout the national territory.

Meanwhile, in Mexico the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] negotiators admitted that their top military leaders are, in fact, in danger. They asserted, however, that 20 soldiers have been killed and 10 wounded in the clashes in La Uribe, while only four guerrillas have been killed.

Pablo Catatumbo, the leader of the CNGSB delegation in Tlaxcala, Mexico, on the evening of 3 May acknowledged the report published by the Armed Forces according to which the FARC Secretariat has been besieged by military troops. Catatumbo said that the Army's siege has forced the CNGSB to call for a recess in the peace talks with the government.

[Begin Catatumbo recording] Due to the military situation the FARC National Secretariat is experiencing at this time, areas that we have formerly used were besieged by the Army on 3 May and it would be impossible to reach those areas under the present circumstances. [end recording]

These clashes mark the beginning of the large-scale offensive the Army will carry out during the month of May—which was anticipated by the TV Today newscast on 5 April—to dismantle the FARC Secretariat and other insurgent groups.

[Begin Catatumbo recording] The only thing that will be accomplished by military confrontation is a spiraling of violence that seems endless. [end recording]

Under these circumstances, it seems as if the war is growing increasingly intense, while the peace dialogue is in recess.

Serpa Uribe on Negotiations

PA0105195792 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Telephone interview with Horacio Serpa Uribe, presidential peace adviser, in Tlaxcala, Mexico by unidentified reporter at the Emisoras Caracol studio in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning, Dr. Serpa. All Colombians would like to know if the peace talks will be recessed. The deputy government minister anticipates a recess lasting several months.

[Serpa] Good morning and greetings. I am happy to learn that telephone communications are restored in our country. To answer your question, after the government reiterated its request to reorganize the agenda, the spokesmen for the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] proposed a recess during the 24 April session.

We have talked more about that proposal. On 29 April, the guerrillas once again insisted on this point. The government answered it did not feel it is necessary and that it was important to break the deadlock. As two are needed to hold a dialogue, the government is willing to examine the issue. We will continue discussing this issue.

[Reporter] Why is the government so (?inflexible) on the issue of international verification?

[Serpa] International verification is the result of an agreement first reached in Caracas, which was to be implemented when the circumstances justified its existence. At this time, however, there is actually nothing to verify, nothing that would justify the creation of this mechanism.

That is why...[pauses] actually, we were very surprised the guerrillas presented this proposal. The government has said it is interested in international verification. We are willing to maintain an agreement on that mechanism, but first, let us make some agreements; let us see results to justify the creation of international verification. Right now, we do not need international verification.

The only result from these discussions has been the agreement on the agenda. We agreed on 10 points, but have been unable to discuss even one. Therefore, the government upholds—and I am sure all Colombians agree with this stance—that if there is nothing to verify, there is no justification for this mechanism.

[Reporter] In the conversations...[pauses] in other problems, in other countries...[pauses] for example, in El Salvador, an international representative, a supervisor, a sort of witness was always present between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the government. Why is the CNGSB so intent on the permanent presence of an international supervisor?

[Serpa] Currently, there is an international witness present. He is a delegate of the Mexican Government who chairs the talks. In addition, he plays a very important supervisory role. In other places, international organizations or internationally recognized persons have played the role of mediators, but in this process we are talking face to face. Moreover, the Catholic Church's mediation which just concluded, was considered very timely. A very great effort was made, but it has been completely ignored. The Church invited us to come to Tlaxcala. We were told there was a very appropriate climate to discuss the national government's observations and proposals, however, nothing has come out of this. In truth, what we have been able to observe is that there is a total lack of willingness to contribute—contrary to what was stated in the Church's communique on behalf of the guerrillas—whatever is necessary to unlock the peace process. The peace process continues to be bogged down.

[Reporter] You have mentioned the 10 agenda topics, of which none have been discussed. Has the CNGSB already agreed to discuss, if the talks continue, the kidnapping and cease-fire topics, which the national government has demanded?

[Serpa] No, the CNGSB has not agreed. The CNGSB wants to continue discussing economic topics, while the government says it will not restart discussing any particular topic. All topics will be discussed, but we need to be in touch with the country's reality. At this moment, Colombia needs to discuss the kidnapping issue. We have repeatedly insisted on this and we have given 1,000 reasons to justify this stance. The same holds true for the cease-fire issue. This is a very extensive and broad topic. We have said: Let us examine it in some way to allow us to examine other topics at the same time, but give this issue priority. Nevertheless, these topics have barely been broached.

On 28 April, a reference was made to an initial stance made in Tlaxcala on topics...[pauses] well, we shall talk now. We will surely have to talk about the recess. The concerns Colombians have in the face of the situation of precarious violence is that the important thing is to make some headway to attain agreements that generate an atmosphere of dialogue and the possibility of peaceful coexistence for Colombians.

[Reporter] Dr. Serpa, we are speaking to you from Santa Fe de Bogota. If a recess is needed, as apparently the CNGSB will request, does the government favor setting a date limit to that recess?

[Serpa] The CNGSB stated they want to discuss the recess issue under certain conditions, such as a new date specified for the dialogue. We have not analyzed this proposal because of the circumstances I mentioned.

[Reporter] Could 29 April be the last day the government and CNGSB will meet? Or has the government set a deadline for the end of week? When will the country learn if the talks will start or if they will enter a recess?

[Serpa] We do not know. We have been making some general analysis, explaining, but the government insists on its proposals. The guerrillas want to deal with issues that are not on the agenda. The government wants a useful dialogue because we understand our enormous responsibility. I repeat, right now we have been unable to rewrite the agenda and this is very important to continue the dialogue process.

[Reporter] Do you believe these difficulties are erasing all the options and perhaps we will be reaching the point where we will have to request some sort of mediation from international organizations, such as UN mediation in El Salvador?

[Serpa] Mediation is not justified at this moment. We are talking face to face at the negotiating table. Both sides have repeatedly expressed resolve to seek peace and it is now a matter of putting this to work. International supervision needs to have a defined task, a goal, and something to work on. At this moment, there is nothing to justify international supervision. I repeat, the government does not object to international supervision, but at the right moment....

[Reporter, interrupting] How would the international supervision the CNGSB is suggesting work? Who would form it?

[Serpa] The CNGSB has not made any definite proposal. The CNGSB has only mentioned the topic. The government proposes that steps should be taken to change the agenda, that some minimum agreements in principle should be made, for example, to justify international mediation. The government proposes advances should be made in the cease-fire issue. This would also justify international supervision and give them work and goals. This is how supervision would work and at the same time the country would have the satisfaction of having an existing dialogue, which we miss every day.

[Reporter] Well, the peace talks with the CNGSB remain very much bogged down.

Peru

Fujimori Comments on Current National Situation

PA0405033192 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 4 May 92

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by reporter Jose Marino and Panorama talk show host Guido Lombardi, at the Government Palace in Lima—live]

[Text] [Marino] Good evening, Mr. President.

[Fujimori] Good evening.

[Marino] Thank you for agreeing to talk with us. In reference to dialogue, it was said that one would be held on 30 April. However, some people believe your proposal or offer for a national dialogue was to create an effect, to please the members of the OAS mission who will start working in Peru on 4 May—they are already in Peru—and Mr. Bernard Aronson who is also visiting.

[Fujimori] In reality I have an entire program, a work program, and that is not its purpose at all. What I want to do is bring the majority of the people together on certain issues, certain concepts, on which they will surely reach a consensus. Therefore, that is merely unfounded speculation.

[Marino] How did your conversation with Secretary of State [title as heard] Aronson turn out? Some say it was rather tense.

[Fujimori] As for the tension, that also is an unfounded description, because no reporter was present in this room. Therefore, that is not accurate. We had a long talk. Mr. Aronson reiterated what we already knew about the U. S. position; they want a shorter schedule and a quick return to constitutionality, although they are no longer insisting that we return to the constitutionality of 4 April, which shows considerable progress. Aronson did not suggest any time limits, but he reiterated the punitive measures that will be adopted against Peru if satisfactory changes are not made.

We are undertaking this process to overcome a number of problems in the judicial and legislative branches with our own solutions. We are not going to imitate other countries. The problem of justice in Peru is different from the problem in the United States. We have not had, for example, reactions like the latest [in the United States] which was prompted by an apparently unfair verdict. In Peru, however, we have had widespread corruption, which is probably not the case in the United States. All of these are peculiarities that force us to take our own steps, and Peru as a sovereign nation is entitled to self-determination. Especially if this self-determination is decided by the Peruvian people themselves.

We discussed many issues. Aronson is not the only one who stated his position. I reminded him of these peculiarities, and especially of the assertions he has made that coincide with reality in Peru. Mr. Aronson, for example,

said in a speech before the U.S. Congress that the Shining Path could generate the third genocide of the century, no less, if it were allowed to thrive. Furthermore, he was so accurately informed of Peru's judicial reality that in his speech he mentioned that only 10 percent of terrorism cases are being sentenced—only 10 percent. Just imagine the other 90 percent. I also told him that in response to this situation, due to which the Peruvian state was virtually in danger of collapsing, we could not remain impassive. I also explained to him why the previous constitutional procedures would hinder these corrections.

Therefore, we exchanged information and reiterated positions. My government—I repeat—reaffirms the need for popular consultation. The people and I will not accept the manipulation of a constituent assembly. There must be direct popular consultation.

[Marino] Do you fear that if you yield to a constituent assembly there [words indistinct] for manipulation...

[Fujimori, interrupts] Over the past few days there has appeared a well-orchestrated campaign concerning a constituent assembly. I will be clear. We will not create a constituent assembly. We are going to seek mechanisms whereby constitutional amendments will heed the people's demands in the most democratic manner possible.

[Marino] Has it been estimated, or in the talks with Mr. Aronson has it been determined, how much Peru will not receive while U.S. aid is kept on standby [preceding word in English]?

[Fujimori] Several million dollars have been mentioned, but we had already received $30 million to $35 million in antidrug aid, out of about $160 million. To tell you the truth, all this aid was frozen. Of course, U.S. support has been fundamental in forming the Support Group and supporting, pardon the repetition, the international organizations. That is a fact. That is why Peru has always been grateful and I have reiterated to Mr. Aronson Peru's position of friendship in this bilateral relationship.

[Marino] What has been determined with regard to the incident in northern Peru involving a U.S. Air Force Hercules aircraft? Both the Peruvian and the U.S. positions seem to be correct. Has some agreement favorable for that bilateral relationship been reached?

[Fujimori] Obviously when dealing with a country as close to Peru as the United States we have tried to treat this matter in the least harmful way, for the sake of our bilateral relationship. First of all we have reiterated our regret for the disappearance of one of the plane's crew. It is regrettable, because as we were not able to identify the aircraft, the [words indistinct] pilots were forced to take such drastic action. It is now clear that the aircraft had no visible identification, that the airplane was on a secret mission, and that it was authorized by the Peruvian Government to fly only a predetermined route and at a predetermined altitude. It was not observed at that altitude, however. I believe that since this is a joint antidrug trafficking campaign, we have not been too demanding about such things as altitude, routes, and so on, provided we are informed. The orders given to the crew of this U.S. aircraft on this secret mission were that if discovered, they would have to abort the mission and leave Peruvian airspace. I personally assured Mr. Aronson that there is no need to take such measures to prevent incidents such as these because we would give them very great leeway to do this kind of work, especially if it is to fight drug trafficking, despite the difficult moments we are experiencing.

Of course, the Air Force also has a specific mission to fulfill. The order had already been issued that all unidentified aircraft in the drug trafficking area must be chased and even brought down. However, this did not take place in the upper Huallaga area, but in an area that for Peru is strategic, especially when dealing with an unidentified aircraft. We have agreed to form a joint commission to resolve all the unpleasant aspects of the incident.

[Lombardi] Jose, if you will allow me...[pause] So that I may participate in the dialogue, could you ask President Fujimori to put on his earphones, so that I may ask him a few questions?

[Marino] Ask the president to put on earphones?

[Lombardi] Yes, please.

[Marino] Yes, Guido, just a second, please.

[Lombardi] Great.

[Fujimori] You would like the interview to be conducted by microwave?

[Lombardi] Yes, of course. Engineer Fujimori, we would like to have the pleasure of participating in this dialogue and of asking you a few questions. You have outlined for us the exchange of opinions that you had with Bernard Aronson, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and you have stated very emphatically that you will not agree to the proposal of a constituent assembly. Are there any other areas in which you could be more flexible?

[Fujimori] I wish to make it clear that Mr. Aronson did not suggest the idea of a constituent assembly. I have given this explanation, because I can see that there is a very finely orchestrated campaign under way in favor of such an assembly. Actually, Mr. Aronson made no major proposals, and our timetable has already been presented. It has been clearly defined. Of course, there can be fine tuning of each of its points, in line with any conclusions that might be reached in the national dialogue.

[Lombardi] President Fujimori, nevertheless, the public, which continues to express very great support for the measures that you adopted on 5 April, has also requested, or rather recommended, in a survey that this station has just broadcast, that the political parties engage in a dialogue with the president of the Republic.

That dialogue does not necessarily need to take place by means of a constituent assembly, but are you willing to agree to such a dialogue, and what other possible mechanisms exist for hearing the proposals of politicians?

[Fujimori] I am open to dialogue, of course. As I have already said, it is to be a frank dialogue for the purpose of talking with all sectors, including the political parties. This will be done through the respective channels. I will not engage in a direct dialogue until a certain consensus is reached. In other words...

[Lombardi, interrupts] To what other channels do you refer? What channels are those?

[Fujimori] For the moment, a dialogue commission has been established. It is headed by the president of the Council of Ministers, and includes the minister of justice and two other people.

[Lombardi] Engineer Fujimori, do you still feel that the Shining Path will be defeated by the end of your term? What makes you think you can achieve this in three years and two months, that is, within the next 38 months?

[Fujimori] I have explained repeatedly that there is an overall strategy in the struggle against subversion. To make it more graphic, I allow myself to reduce the Peruvian society's problem to a smaller sphere, that of the university. Society's problems are reflected in the university. Well then, at that level, where terrorism is presented in a more acute form, we have managed to control it, and have the university community participate in the struggle against terrorism from diverse angles. We expect that kind of reaction to be produced equally in Peruvian society. Of course, it will be on a much greater scale, but it is not an impossible task.

In another quarter, one of the problems that we have faced over the past 12 years is that terrorists who were captured and put in jail were either not sentenced or, after being sentenced, were released from prison after serving two or three years, to continue carrying out their crimes with greater intensity.

Well then, what I have gleaned from Mr. Aronson's statement that I have just mentioned, is that only 10 percent of cases of terrorism were being dealt with by the judicial branch. Now, things are different. There are more serious penalties, such as the life sentence. The terrorists are not going to get out of prison so easily. In addition, in the case of those who are presently serving sentences, their cases will be reexamined to determine whether the person has really been rehabilitated or not. If the person is a threat to society, then we simply cannot let him out.

[Lombardi] Engineer Fujimori, there are those who fear that you may be trying to eliminate or tie the hands of the political parties, and obviously a constituent assembly that includes those who are rejected by the public today would not be the best way to achieve such a goal. What is the goal of the political parties law that you have offered to promulgate soon?

[Fujimori] That which everyone hopes for and which is a prerequisite for democracy: democratization within the political parties themselves. The rank and file of those parties, no matter which ones and regardless of their persuasion, are themselves demanding greater participation, and calling for the selection of party leaders, for example, to be carried out through universal, secret, and direct voting. That is the only way to explain the fact that the great majority of the rank and file of all the political parties, without exception, are supporting the government's position.

[Lombardi] One last question, Engineer Fujimori. You have said that you prepared for the events of 5 April, not with the ministerial team, but with a special team. Is that special team still functioning? Will it have specific tasks in the modification of the Constitution, for example?

[Fujimori] That special team is a secret team, a very small, very tiny group. I repeat that I will give details about it—everyone asks about it—in 1995.

[Lombardi] Is Vladimiro Montesinos a member of that special team?

[Fujimori] He is not a member of it. He is a member of the intelligence service. He is an intelligence official.

[Lombardi] Thank you, Engineer Fujimori, for being so kind as to give Panorama this time to clarify some things that we think are of great interest to the public. We hope this very broad dialogue that you have offered to the country will continue. We at Panamericana Television Network and on the Panorama program will always be ready to support you. Thank you again, and until next time.

[Fujimori] Will you allow me to interrupt?

[Lombardi] Of course, with great pleasure.

[Fujimori] Your interviewer, Marino, and I had prepared some topics, but since I have not been asked the questions, I will take the initiative.

[Lombardi] Go ahead.

[Marino] If you will allow me, Mr. President. Guido, I had two final things to ask, please. Will you talk specifically about the problem of the new attorney general, Dr. Hugo Denegri, an appointment that has been questioned by many sectors? Second, your extremely close relationship to the Armed Forces has led many to call this a kind of supervised democracy, a trusteeship. Could you comment briefly, please, before we say goodbye?

[Fujimori] As to the second point, what we have here at this time is a sui generis democracy. In other words, we are living in democracy. All freedoms are respected. I say democracy because there is majority support from the

people. No matter how biased a poll is taken, the majority is still over 75 percent, which is quite a lot.

As for the first question, I wish to take advantage of the important Panorama program to clarify certain things. At no time have I appointed Dr. Hugo Denegri as attorney general. We had taken absolutely no action in this regard. We have been evaluating the situation. Moreover, the reorganization of the Attorney General's office had not been completed. After our evaluation, however, we decided to dismiss Dr. Denegri. Today we are in the process of appointing Dr. Nelida Colan as the supreme criminal attorney. Recently, she had been serving as deputy attorney. She resigned from this post and is now occupying the new post. A permanent attorney general has not yet been named, but two important changes have already been made.

[Marino] Thank you very much, Mr. President. Go ahead, Guido, in the studios.

[Lombardi] Thank you, Jose Marino. I reiterate our thanks to President Fujimori for the time he has given us, and for the important explanations that he has offered.

[Fujimori] Thank you very much.

On Reforms, Plebescite

PA0305195392 Lima Frecuencia 2 Satellite Television in Spanish 1426 GMT 3 May 92

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by Fernando Vasquez at the Presidential Palace in Lima; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Vasquez] We are here at the Presidential Palace for an interview with President Alberto Fujimori. Good morning, Mr. President.

[Fujimori] Good morning.

[Vasquez] What was the decisive reason that led to the dramatic decision on 5 April?

[Fujimori] The Peruvian people and I believed there were several accumulated reasons that led us to make the decision, but I do not want to go into details. I have already said it will be part of history after 28 June 1995.

[Vasquez] All groups say the changes you are proposing could have been made within a constitutional order. It was not necessary to set aside the Constitution, for example, to reform the judicial branch. It could have been done with laws and with a functioning Congress.

[Fujimori] You cannot tell that to the people. Tell that to them and who would believe you?

[Vasquez] That is it?

[Fujimori] The judicial branch was too lenient. It had to undergo deep changes. There was no other way.

[Vasquez] Why not draft a new criminal code or suggest reforms to the Constitution, for example?

[Fujimori] It was not only a matter of codes, it was also a matter of the structure. The Peruvian people have waited long enough. For example, how many terrorists have been released in the last few months? Over 200.

[Vasquez] You believe that because we were in a bogged-down situation, it was necessary to kick everyone out?

[Fujimori] Everyone is saying we were right, even the opposition media.

[Vasquez] In what regard?

[Fujimori] They are asking us why so and so was not removed from office. They insistently asked us to take action. When we removed the 13 Supreme Court magistrates, they asked for the removal of four others. They, of course, agreed that the action was unconstitutional, but it was necessary. We have heeded other calls in this regard and everyone agrees with our actions.

[Vasquez] For a long time, people in our country have demanded a moralization of the judicial branch. No one can deny that, but is not beheading a branch of government going too far?

[Fujimori] It is not completely beheaded. We have kept the people we believe are honest and efficient and no one has questioned that, not even the opposition media.

[Vasquez] Who decided who stayed?

[Fujimori] A special government committee, the details of which are not worth mentioning now. The action was not questioned.

[Vasquez] EL EXPRESO is now publishing some of the bad records of people remaining in the judicial branch. You have admitted that rectifications will be made. We have the case of a prosecutor...

[Fujimori, interrupting] You are talking about the Attorney General's Office. We have yet to initiate the total reorganization process of the Attorney General's Office. Attorney General Hugo Ernesto Denegri is occupying the post, but my government has not [word indistinct] swear him in.

[Vasquez] Will Attorney General Denegri remain in his post?

[Fujimori] You will soon see the drastic measures we are going to take.

[Vasquez] There are those who say you left the executive branch untouched on 5 April. Why go after the judicial and legislative branches only? There are also cases of corruption in the executive branch.

[Fujimori] There are definitely serious deficiencies in the executive branch, but this is a more extensive issue. We are going to proceed to correct the deficiencies, but you

should mention a case of corruption so it can be corrected. I have not heard of a single case in the executive branch in the last few months. In the cases that have been brought to my attention, I have immediately dismissed the people involved.

[Vasquez] A case of corruption was left unresolved following 5 April. It was the investigation into the clothes donated by Japan.

[Fujimori] The investigations continue at the Attorney General's Office. The executive branch is not interfering in this investigation.

[Vasquez] You are appointing the prosecutors.

[Fujimori] The prosecutor handling the case is the same one and besides, I have not appointed a new attorney general.

[Vasquez] The judicial branch members came here to thank you for nominating them.

[Fujimori] They have come to return the greetings I gave them, which is normal in these cases. We have to coordinate the measures we have to take, especially in matters of moralization. We are going to be drastic.

[Vasquez] Then you are not going to change a judicial branch, which some said was linked to the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance Party and which others believe will be linked to President Fujimori?

[Fujimori] There is no connection between the appointed magistrates and myself. I would like you to mention a single case. They are all competent professionals independent of the executive branch. There is absolutely no connection between the cabinet members, my advisers, and myself to the members of the Supreme Court.

[Vasquez] Some people argue that the number of ministries should be reduced. Sources report you will soon announce the dismantling of the Housing Ministry and this is why you have not yet appointed a new minister. Privatizations are still pending; they are paralyzed. There are also many government actions that require the vigor you demanded from the Congress and the judicial branch. Is that not so?

[Fujimori] We will now, of course, work on that and take action. I do not wish to make announcements but would like my actions to speak for me. We will conduct a profound reorganization of the judicial branch.

[Vasquez] Do you have any self-criticism of your tenure, of your performance as president of the Republic?

[Fujimori] Of course, I have a few since 5 April.

[Vasquez] What are they?

[Fujimori] For example, perhaps the preventive measures we adopted to avert disorders. Casualties following the 5 April developments have been somewhat exaggerated. We monitored the media and ordered a few house arrests, but that turned out to be unnecessary. It is obvious that prior to 5 April it was difficult to foresee the massive support the government would receive.

[Vasquez] There are even those who point out that you were unaware of the true scope of the measures you were going to adopt and that you reacted as the events unfolded after having announced the dissolution of the Congress and the judicial branch. Was that so?

[Fujimori] [laughs] Everyone knows that I do not act in such an irresponsible and childish manner. I am a man who rules with decisiveness.

[Vasquez] What prompted you, Mr. President, on that day... [pauses] on the next day, for example, the IDB was going to grant $200 million to Peru, but this was suspended because of the events the previous day.

[Fujimori] It was obvious there would be international reaction.

[Vasquez] There still is.

[Fujimori] Yes, of course, but it was necessary to adopt these measures regardless of the international reaction. We need to launch a campaign to make Peru's reality known; to make its situation regarding terrorism, drug trafficking, and democracy, and its goals known.

[Vasquez] Mr. President, a report indicates that the United States feels the time frame of the schedule you drafted is too broad, that we cannot wait 12 or 18 months to overcome this deadlock. Do you stand by your schedule?

[Fujimori] You who participated in several elections know perfectly well that this is a tight schedule, that we require a minimum period to clean up the system (?based on) the logistics of the National Electoral Board [JNE].

[Vasquez] [Question indistinct]?

[Fujimori] That time was considered. We are now facing abnormal conditions precisely because [chuckles] the JNE is facing its own problems.

[Vasquez] No, we are facing abnormal situations because we are trying to return to constitutionality and this is an international demand. The OAS mission that will arrive on 3 May in Lima will propose some kind of solution to this deadlock, which other countries view as dangerous.

[Fujimori] I wish to clarify something. No one is now proposing a return to the constitutionality or democracy that prevailed on 4 April. There is general consensus here and abroad that we must undergo profound changes.

[Vasquez] Did Mr. Bernard Aronson, who met with you on 2 May for two and one-half hours, ask you specifically to return to democracy and institutionality?

[Fujimori] To the new institutionality; to the new constitutionality; this current exists even in the United States. In other words, there is progress on this issue. They are saying we were correct in adopting these measures on 5 April.

[Vasquez] Mr. President, you pointed out that you would leave should the result of the 5 July plebiscite be adverse.

[Fujimori] Oh yes, I would go.

[Vasquez] Is it that easy to say?

[Fujimori] It is not only easy to say but also to do. Why not? One is president with the people's support. I want to be emphatic about this: One must be democratic.

[Vasquez] Who would you leave in charge of the government? Would there be a temporary government?

[Fujimori] No, we would also decide what to do through a plebiscite.

[Vasquez] You believe Maximo San Roman is no longer vice president?

[Fujimori] We have decided absolutely nothing on this issue.

[Vasquez] Therefore, you would leave should the plebiscite be adverse to you and the country would be facing a dead-end street?

[Fujimori] No, I would not leave the country facing a dead-end street. That is precisely why I adopted the measures on 5 April: To prevent the collapse of the state. We are doing all we can to find ways to ensure that the country advances.

[Vasquez] You announced a schedule starting with a dialogue on 1 May. However, that has not occurred. This is one point of the schedule that has already been broken.

[Fujimori] Rest assured this will not be a discursive dialogue or a dialogue that will take the form of a congress or assembly, as some want it to be.

[Vasquez] How will it be?

[Fujimori] It will be a dialogue involving serious working commissions formed by experts on the issues. From this dialogue we will draw the recommendations to be discussed at a forum.

[Vasquez] Mr. President, the OAS wants a direct dialogue between you and the protagonists of the country's political life to find a solution to this situation; to eventually reform the Constitution, so on, and so forth. The OAS wants a dialogue between you and them. Is this a possibility?

[Fujimori] Of course, that is why I have said the national dialogue for peace and development is completely open and frank. The prime minister has already announced the mechanisms, place, and so on. Let us not limit ourselves to a dialogue between the chief executive and those political groups. Where does this leave 95 percent of the population who have always been isolated?

[Vasquez] They will also participate?

[Fujimori] Of course, that is necessary. The idea is not to have those groups and the president of the Republic, who is the chief executive, hold a dialogue or reach a pact. This is why this concept is important: We must have a participative democracy.

[Vasquez] All quarters must admit their mistakes?

[Fujimori] Of course, I fully agree with that.

[Vasquez] For example, would you accept mediation by the Catholic Church or Javier Perez de Cuellar, as has been commented on so much lately?

[Fujimori] If there was a firm decision against a dialogue, we would probably need mediation of that sort. However, I repeat, the dialogue is open and there are channels to participate in it.

[Vasquez] You say that the dialogue is open, but would you be willing to sit down perhaps at this same table...

[Fujimori, interrupting] No, no, not me; not me. That is the task of a dialogue commission. Please, I have to govern and will not be involved until a certain level is reached.

[Vasquez] What about a solution that includes the establishment of a constituent assembly? Do you rule it out?

[Fujimori] No, I do not advocate assemblies because we have already seen their results. Articles are negotiated through pacts—that would not work.

[Vasquez] But why necessarily...

[Fujimori, interrupting] You cite the Constitution; I can too. The 1979 Constitution calls for the constant use of popular consultations, which has never been done. We must do it. But why deny the Peruvian people the possibility to participate in the democratic system? Is it that we must continue with the previous system of allowing them to vote every five years and nothing more? Let us allow them to participate. Why should the Peruvian people be denied the same democratic right of more advanced countries, such as Switzerland and the United States? Or is it because we are an underdeveloped country....

[Vasquez, interrupting] [Words indistinct]

[Fujimori] No, we can hold referendums here, too.

[Vasquez] The people can be manipulated.

[Fujimori] Please, you should not be biased toward and think badly about the Peruvian people.

[Vasquez] I am not thinking badly, Mr. President...

[Fujimori, interrupting] Why can the Swiss people do it and the Peruvians cannot?

[Vasquez] There is a long democratic tradition in Switzerland.

[Fujimori] We must establish that tradition here. Do you believe the people want those fired judges back or do you want the legislators, who have done nothing, back in Congress? Nobody wants that.

[Vasquez] Of course not, Mr. President. That is the position of the people, but that position could change soon if the economic crisis worsens...

[Fujimori, interrupting] Sometimes the people's opinions have to be gauged. We cannot wait, for example, to hold elections because 95 percent of the people support elections and we want that figure to reach 96 percent. We have to take action at some point.

[Vasquez] Will we be moving from one consultation to another during the rest of your government?

[Fujimori] Oh, no, of course not, but there are issues that must be discussed with the people.

[Vasquez] There are several issues that must be discussed with the people. For example, no one knows how the so-called constitutional reforms will be implemented. No one knows what group of people, notables...[pauses] no one knows what they will do.

[Fujimori] Let us suppose that in the worse case scenario, the people disapprove of an amendment. The people would vote no.

[Vasquez] But this involves closed packages [words indistinct] say yes to some and no to others.

[Fujimori] Questions could even be listed separately. I repeat, the people's consultation, which is viewed as Satan by the opposition, is a democratic mechanism contemplated even in the 1979 Constitution. The problem is that they fear [chuckles] what the people might say.

[Vasquez] Mr. President, it is somewhat contradictory for you to talk about consultation with the people when you made the gravest decision of your political career on your own or with a group of military advisers. Not even your ministers knew, much less your Change 90 copartisans.

[Fujimori] These are decisions that are made in difficult times, and of course, cannot be revealed to prevent them from being aborted. Opposition groups could prevent the adoption of a measure the people would in fact support. Fortunately, we did not make the wrong decision.

[Vasquez] Do you feel like a prisoner of the military?

[Fujimori] Absolutely not.

[Vasquez] Is there a close collaboration, a full sharing of the decisions you adopted? (?Is this the case) with the entire Armed Forces?

[Fujimori] In our relationship with the Armed Forces, I believe that there is an aspect that has not been realized. There is an actual command. I was named supreme chief of the Armed Forces and I fully exercise this post. Moreover, there is a conviction among the Armed Forces on the need to adopt these measures. For example, they are perfectly aware of the terrorism problem. At the pace we were going, Peru would go down the drain. They are supportive of the measures, as are the people. This is the first time there is a feeling of national unity in the face of so many problems. It should not be said the people are divided.

There are perhaps two groups. One made up of the parties, fired judges, and certain congressional employees; but what about the rest, formed by the united people, that is, about 90 percent of the population.

[Vasquez] (?They are) in total agreement?

[Fujimori] Of course, and I forgot to mention consultation with the people. Polls indicate that we have a higher than 90 percent approval rate. We cannot disregard this; the people have a right to voice their opinion.

[Vasquez] Now that we are talking about military officers, one of your military advisers, who is apparently close to you, Captain Vladimiro Montesinos, has been described by THE MIAMI HERALD as being linked to drug traffickers. This could cast a shadow over your moralization campaign. What is your response?

[Fujimori] You are making an inaccurate statement. You called him one of my military advisers. He is not.

[Vasquez] He is not?

[Fujimori] He is not. He is a legal adviser, especially in personal matters. I have also consulted with him concerning some legal matters.

[Vasquez] Major Nijera says Montesinos is very closely linked to military personnel who hold top government positions.

[Fujimori] These are all rumors. I have already been linked to Luz, Zimmerman, and Utiburi and so many others. Look, when one fights...

[Vasquez, interrupts] [Word indistinct]

[Fujimori] Please do not insist. I do not even know that person. When one fights against drug traffickers, of course these giant multimillion-dollar interests will attempt to undermine our actions.

[Vasquez] Montesinos was the drug traffickers' lawyer.

[Fujimori] He may have been between 1982 and 1983. Many lawyers have provided legal advice to drug traffickers. *I do not think this is prohibited by the bar*

association, but over the past few years he has not defended any drug traffickers. He can defend himself in any case. If someone, especially someone who has occupied top government positions, is now saying that Mr. Fujimori is surrounded by such and such adviser linked to drug traffickers, that is a serious omission, as well as sign of complicity for not reporting it. A person must show sufficient consistency and must have enough moral integrity to report someone like this when he learns about these problems.

[Vasquez] Do you not believe it would be a good idea for Vladimiro Montesinos to respond to this accusation by THE MIAMI HERALD?

[Fujimori] It is a matter of...[pauses] The headline—and you have just read it—states: Peruvian adviser linked to drug traffickers. The content of the article is not what the newspaper headline says. That is really a manipulation of the headline. Montesinos has the final word in any case. What do you want? Do you want people from the intelligence services to place themselves in the center of public attention so they can become the target of the different fanatics? Intelligence services simply work that way.

[Vasquez] [words indistinct]

[Fujimori] If so many people have charges to file, why are they not brought to the Attorney General's Office right away? If there is no evidence, it constitutes serious defamation. It is not a matter of attacking Mr. Montesinos, it is a matter of attacking President Fujimori. Since they are unable to do it, because they know he has the support of 90 percent of the people, then they are first trying to weaken some of the groups that work with me.

[Vasquez] This same MIAMI HERALD report says Montesinos is a CIA agent in Peru, who has received 20 small four-wheel drive vehicles. Is this true?

[Fujimori] I wish we could get so many such vehicles. We do not receive U.S. aid for our intelligence services.

[Vasquez] He is not a CIA agent?

[Fujimori] He is not! Come on! That is a lack of imagination. I believe there are people who are not working with good intentions.

[Vasquez] Mr. President, there are people who say that the military will send you a bill for their support and that they are waiting for a big increase in wages.

[Fujimori] A wage increase for the entire central government would be unjustified. We manage these policies according to our resources. There are no populist policies here.

[Vasquez] There are none.

[Fujimori] There are none. We continue with the same serious and austere economic program.

[Vasquez] There are no populist policies here, you say. What about the rally in Guaycan the other day and the computers donated to the university students?

[Fujimori] Your concept of populism is just the opposite of mine. To support a university that has its infrastructure but lacks $5,000 in equipment so that its laboratory can operate, that is not populism. To support human settlements with $20 million—which once would have been squandered on such things as Cedula Viva pension benefits cards for legislators and so on—so that they can have a health infrastructure with the $20 million, that is not populism. Come on! Those are services the people need. It is a good way to allocate the few resources the country has.

[Vasquez] That is a mark of your new image. You are doing it now apparently to ensure that the people will continue to support you.

[Fujimori] No, we are simply able to do it now. For example, if I save $20 million in pension benefits, I have to send it over there. That is obvious. I did not have it in the past.

[Vasquez] Some were already making plans, thinking that the money would be handed right and left now that Congress will not interfere. Someone even claimed that the businessmen who support you are also waiting for their turn: A restructure of their heavy debts. Will there be any of that?

[Fujimori] I have shown my character in 20 months and that is the best guarantee of my behavior. I will get in bed with no one. I have only one commitment—to my Peruvian people. I have absolutely no commitments with businessmen or the military. There are no privileged groups. I do not even have commitments with the journalists.

[Vasquez] That is true.

[Fujimori] There are no privileges here.

[Vasquez] Why then did you replace the Board of Directors of the Central Reserve Bank [BCR]? Why remove Jorge Chavez, a zealous guardian of the reserves that cost us so much to amass, and replace him with someone else, who many claim is associated to the regime?

[Fujimori] You should pose that question to the experts who know economics and the handling of monetary policy.

[Vasquez] What would they tell me?

[Fujimori] First of all, I have heard no criticism—only praise. In the past there was a lack of coordination between the BCR and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, a serious lack of coordination. All economic officials are now pleased with the changes.

[Vasquez] Mr. President, you said that your regime will at any rate conclude on 28 July 1995.

[Fujimori] I can only assure you that I will not be removed before 28 July 1995.

[Vasquez] Someone is trying to remove you?

[Fujimori] I will say no more.

[Vasquez] The constituent assembly, for example, if it is finally established, could reach a solution that would more or less involve something like that [chuckles].

[Fujimori] But I will also assure you that will not be the case.

[Vasquez] What will be?

[Fujimori] I will be in power until 28 July 1995.

[Vasquez] Does that mean that there will not be a shortening of deadlines for a return to constitutionality either?

[Fujimori] No, the schedule that was presented is very reasonable. I believe that it has been well-received by the population. This is important: We must respect public opinion.

[Vasquez] Mr. President, is there even a slight possibility that you will take a step backward?

[Fujimori] Step backward in what sense? [raising his voice] Return to the situation that prevailed on 4 April? The people would lynch me.

[Vasquez] Do you think so?

[Fujimori] Of course.

[Vasquez] Not return to the situation that prevailed on 4 April, but reforms in terms that are a little more democratic, in more participative terms.

[Fujimori] But what reforms can be more democratic than the ones we propose? First, a total moralization accompanied by a total clean up of the judicial branch....

[Vasquez, interrupts] But who will do that?

[Fujimori] Who? The chief executive. What did you think? That the legislative branch should do it? Or a commission? Give me a break. The reorganization of the legislative branch will follow. You should go out to the streets and ask the people if they believe we should have 240 legislators—240 former legislators with pension benefits. They would actually say no. They would say that there should be 100 or 120. Others will perhaps say that there should not be two chambers, and yet others will say that there should be no reduction in the number of legislators. We should listen to the people and we will propose this in the reforms.

[Vasquez] Yes, that is true. Therefore, a solution through a constituent assembly is not feasible?

[Fujimori] I do not view it as a priority for the time being. First comes moralization, reorganization, and respect for institutionality or the establishment of institutionality of popular consultation. The people must be heard. [pounds fist on table] This is very important, Mr. Vasquez, because in doing this we will reduce the influence of the Shining Path. The people would have greater participation through consultations and certain democratic mechanisms. As a result, the Shining Path will see its influence reduced. We have seldom seen nationwide unity as we are experiencing now despite facing so many problems, especially problems generated by terrorism.

Plans To Fulfill 'Mandate'

PA0205192992 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1743 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Lima, 2 May (EFE)—Peru's de facto president Alberto Fujimori asserted on 2 May that there is not "even a remote possibility" that he will leave power prior to 1995.

"I guarantee I will fulfill my mandate" until 28 July 1995, Fujimori stressed to the newspaper LA REPUBLICA, in the first interview he has granted to the press since 5 April, when he staged a coup and dissolved Congress and the judicial branch with the assistance of the Armed Forces.

The leader did not admit even the possibility that eventually the Armed Forces may turn against him and remove him from power because, he explained, "I have made provisions to prevent that."

Nevertheless, he insisted he will summon the people to a plebiscite on 5 July to ask them if they support "the reforms" that began with the coup d'etat. He asserted that if the results are adverse, "I will leave."

Fujimori announced on 21 April that a plebiscite will be held on 5 July to legitimize him as the country's leader and to allow him to begin making reforms, schedule a constitutional referendum in November, and hold legislative elections in February 1993.

As part of this plan, he said during the interview, he is open to dialogue with all political and social sectors, for which his government has created a commission, but "the only condition is that there will be no return to the situation that prevailed on 4 April," prior to the coup.

Oscar de la Puente, Fujimori's prime minister and foreign minister, announced on 1 May in a message addressed to the nation, that the government has created a commission to address the proposals that may emerge from political parties, housewives, street vendors, the unemployed, and other diverse groups.

This announcement came on the day on which Fujimori had scheduled a "national dialogue," which—without any explanation—was not held.

According to the de facto president, despite the recommendations of the Peruvian opposition, the OAS, and United States, a summons to hold constituent assembly elections "is not a given."

"We must ask the people" if they want to establish a constituent, he added.

He underscored that in Peru there is "national unity" and the only people who disagree with him are the political leaders.

On the topic of the possibility of talking to Maximo San Roman, who was designated Peruvian constitutional president on 21 April by the dissolved Congress, Fujimori only said that "the executive branch has formed a dialogue commission. Everyone can be heard there."

San Roman will only be jailed if "he dictates laws or invades jurisdictions [fueros]. Meanwhile, he may act freely, meet, and summon meetings, like all citizens," Fujimori added.

Regarding former Peruvian President Alan Garcia (1985-1990), in hiding since the day of the coup, Fujimori explained that "he is charged with weapons possession."

Fujimori admitted he is concerned about Peru's international isolation, but said "that had to happen" and that nevertheless, "we will continue with this process because I am sure the countries will understand" in the future.

He added that even though countries such as the United States, Germany, and Spain have suspended aid to Peru; the financial support group to Peru has become paralyzed, and the Inter-American Development Bank has frozen aid worth $210 million, "Japan has not withdrawn its aid and all Japanese aid is arriving."

Fujimori announced he will reform the Constitution "dealing with the legislative branch, the number of representatives, look into the possibility of a single chamber system, and some judicial branch articles."

He rejected charges against his closest assistant, Vladimiro Montesinos, and highlighted that "there is no evidence against him" to link him with drug trafficking and espionage for the CIA.

On the subject of Washington's complaint to Lima for not taking all the necessary police measures against drug trafficking, Fujimori asked "why does the United States or the DEA allow so many drugs to enter" their territory?

Fujimori gave assurances that "it is a fallacy" that the coup d'etat has benefited the strategies of the Shining Path Maoist guerrilla group and that his "proposal to fight terrorism will receive support."

San Roman Appeals For End to Confrontation

PA0205131192 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0012 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Lima, 30 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Peruvian opposition leader Maximo San Roman stated a national dialogue is the only way the country can emerge from the political crisis. He appealed to all conflicting parties to end the confrontation.

"At this very difficult moment, we must unite in an act of solidarity, renouncing any vested interests other than those of the fatherland," San Roman, proclaimed the legal president by the dissolved Congress, stated.

On 30 April, the chief of the so-called government of reconciliation headed in a central auditorium the first meeting of representative organizations of Peruvian society, who seek a return of democracy. The meeting took place without any incident.

San Roman said he was attending the meeting as a common citizen to seek an understanding among all the social sectors to restore institutional order.

The opposition leader said he is ready for dialogue and to find a solution to the crisis. He said the Peruvian economy is deteriorating due to the dangerous recession that followed a severe program of adjustments applied 20 months ago.

He said 12 million of the 22 million Peruvians live in dire poverty.

"I earnestly and desperately seek, through solidarity and national reconciliation, to reach an understanding and to reintegrate the people into our fatherland's destiny," he said.

He appealed to all the representative forces of the country to cooperate in the task of national reconstruction and to offer people a free and sovereign Peru.

San Roman, sworn in as first vice president of Fujimori's government 21 months ago, rejected those who think the people will continue on their knees to receive crumbs, referring to the promises made to the people by the national emergency and reconstruction government.

In dissolving the Congress and intervening in the judicial branch on 5 April, Fujimori promised a real democracy, alien to the interests of the traditional parties, who he accused of directing an open plot against his government.

"It is not a dictatorship that will take us forward, but democracy. Dictatorships have proven to be more corrupt and inoperative," San Roman remarked.

The proclaimed "constitutional president" rejected the plebiscite announced by Fujimori for 5 July to modify the Constitution that has been in force since 1979 and to reform the legislative and judicial branches.

He proposed for that same day the election of a constituent assembly to draft the amendments to the Constitution.

He also proposed that both the de facto government and legal president, as he considers himself, resign on 28 July so the constituent assembly can elect a transitional government while general elections are called for 31 January 1993.

De la Puente Heads National Dialogue Commission

PA0205035192 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 May

["Message" delivered by Oscar de la Puente Raygada, president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister; place not given—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text]...in the manifesto to the nation last 5 April, defining the conditions that will permit the participation of all sectors of citizens in the common endeavor of building a new Peru. To achieve these objectives, it obviously requires the participation of citizens to approve the reforms that will be set forth later in a new political constitution, which will permit a secure peace and a more just order.

This is why we have called a national dialogue for peace and development as a way to permit the participation of all the sectors of civilian society. It is important to stress that nothing of what has been noted as the basic objectives of the national emergency and reconstruction government can be achieved without a framework of peace, devoid of the ills of corruption, narcotrafficking, and terrorism. These ills destroy life and prevent the development to which our country is legally entitled.

The climate of juridical order, peace, and confidence in our country and in its institutions will keep the doors of Peru open to international investment and to credibility with financial organizations. This climate will lead to the gradual disappearance of structural imbalances that date back centuries and that our generation has the historic task of overcoming in order to create conditions that will allow Peruvians to have a better life.

Given the importance of the national dialogue for peace and development, the government has designated a commission under my leadership composed of four state ministers. The commission will hold a totally open dialogue, so that citizens who comprise all of society will be present. This will include representatives from among the following groups and individuals: social, business, professional, independent, political, neighborhood, cultural, labor, religious, denominational, peasants, mothers, housewives, human settlements, irregular and independent workers, unemployed, youths, students, small and micro businessmen, universities, media, local and regional government representatives, retired and pensioned workers, and nongovernment organizations.

Also included, in general, are the large national majorities who until now have not had the opportunity to have their aspirations and demands heard and who, by merit of the national dialogue for peace and development, can join the patriotic mission. This mission is to create an institutional framework that will permit society in general to be more fully developed, through creative work and through the pride of belonging to a country that faces the future with faith and optimism.

With the purpose of channeling the participation of citizens, the Office of Coordination of the National Dialogue for Peace and Development has been created in the presidency of the Council of Ministers. It has been allocated a budget of 1 million new soles through law decree 25440. This will permit assisting the commission with the infrastructure and goods and services required to better fulfill the role assigned to it.

The importance of the topics—such as reforms of the Constitution, the new structure of the legislative branch, the pacification, the national control system, the law on political parties, and those linked with the judicial branch—make it necessary to form commissions and subcommissions that must be integrated. This integration will preferably be on the basis of specific sectors—with political, social, production, business, professional, labor union, and popular organizations—so that the results achieved will influence public opinion in the national debate on the constitutional amendments. These amendments will be published and will later be submitted to referendum, in keeping with the timetable established by the national emergency and reconstruction government.

The Technical Secretariat of the Office of Coordination of the National Dialogue for Peace and Development is charged with providing the necessary information and supplying assistance so that the working groups can achieve better results. This office will function in the Civic Center in Lima and in the seat of the presidency of the regional governments in the provinces, according to a communique that will be published by the media.

As president of the Council of Ministers, foreign minister, and leader of the commission, I transmit to the citizens the optimism and faith that the president has placed in this mechanism of dialogue. Today, 1 May 1992, is a day of the workers and of the beginning of the national dialogue for peace and development. This is not only because it will represent the largest national concerted effort, but because it is the fullest and most objective expression of the new, real, and participatory democracy that we seek to build. This represents the centennial-long aspiration of all Peruvians.

For my part, I express my conviction in the success of the dialogue to give our country the security of a juridical system, within the new constitutional framework, that will respond to the clamor of the large national majorities. These majorities have expressed their total support for the transcendent decision of 5 April adopted by Alberto Fujimori, constitutional president of the Republic. Thank you very much, and good evening.

Media, Experts Discuss Economic Situation

PA0305144392 Lima Radio Programas de Peru Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 2 May 92

["Saturday Focus" program with hosts Dennis Vargas Marin, Humberto Jara, and Arturo Salazar; Dr. Graciela Fernandez Baca, editor of CUANTO magazine, and Dr. Manuel Romero Caro, editor of newspaper GESTION at the Radio Programas studio; and Dr. Guido Penano, president and director of MEDIO DE CAMBIO magazine by telephone from an undisclosed location—live]

[Excerpts] [Vargas] Let us begin our program with a basic question for our guests. First, Dr. Manuel Romero Caro, good morning. Welcome to the program.

[Romero] Good morning, Dennis.

[Vargas] After the events of 5 April, the economic issue has been obscured by political affairs, which many consider a smokescreen to conceal what is going to happen in the economic field. First of all, Dr. Manuel Romero Caro, what is your view at this time, taking into consideration the government institutions, with regard to the future of the national economy? What do you predict? Will there be changes? Should changes be implemented, or should this economic program implemented by the government continue?

[Romero] First, more than 21 months have passed since the implementation of the economic program. I believe that this period is sufficient to assess what is going on in the economic field. Evidently inflation has been reduced, confidence has returned, and some progress has been made concerning Peru's return to the international financial system, which is in danger at this time.

However, it is also evident that the recession has not been defeated, income distribution has deteriorated, and the financial system is facing serious problems. A dangerous reduction of dollar deposits, estimated at more than $300 million, has been reported. We still have problems with the exchange rate, which adversely affects production levels. Interest rates are still high and we have an unresolved fiscal problem.

The fact that a self-inflicted coup d'etat took place on 5 April has not changed the aforementioned variables.

In some cases, as you mentioned, the economic problems have been obscured by political events.

However, the problems continue. We all remember that there was a very important fiscal problem before. The government announced a tax reform package at the end of February and Congress eliminated some of the provisions. Later, both the president and the minister of the economy stated that alternative and complementary measures were required to compensate for revenues that were not received because of the eliminated taxes.

The break in the constitutional order on 5 April then occurred. Thus far, we do not know how that shortage is going to be covered.

Evidently, some adjustments are in order in the fiscal and monetary fields. I believe that the public is waiting and anxious to see what adjustments will be announced. I think it would be appropriate to refer to this at a later time.

[Vargas] That is right, Dr. Romero. We also salute Dr. Guido Penano of MEDIO DE CAMBIO magazine. Good morning, Dr. Penano.

[Penano] Good morning, Dennis.

[Vargas] From your point of view and that of your company, how do you see the current economic situation? What lays ahead in the economic field after the events of 5 April?

[Penano] First of all, allow me to greet those who accompany you, who are all good friends of mine. I would like to state that several months ago I participated in a television program during which I said that there were serious problems in the economic program. This was later denied, I do not know how this occurred.

However, the figures that we already have collected demonstrate that I was correct. Production fell in the first quarter of this year, and if we exclude the service and commerce sectors, the drop in production levels in the industrial and agriculture sectors is very high. We have a recession, which is not stable. To the contrary, the situation worsened during the first quarter.

Another troublesome issue, as I said before, is the balance of payments, particularly in the commercial sector. Last year there was a deficit in the commercial balance of payments, which has increased during the first quarter of the year.

Third, as Manuel Romero clearly stated, the fiscal issue concerns us now more than before. After the events of 5 April, the net flow of capital that Peru was hoping to receive in 1992, according to the agreement with the International Monetary Fund and the Support Group, should have been favorable. We understand that Peru will continue to pay its debt, and since it does not receive resources from abroad, this will translate into a fiscal deficit of $650 million.

I wonder where the $650 million will come from, within the nonpopulist program under which we operated before 5 April? This, coupled with the problems of the banks... [pauses] The Central Reserve Bank presented a report indicating that more than five banks are facing a dangerous financial situation. I understand that on 28 April, the board of directors of the Central Bank decided not to bail out Peruinvest, which means that it will be liquidated in the next few days. To summarize, there are a series of problems that have been obscured by the events of 5 April.

With regard to the economic problems, I remember that before 5 April many leaders of associations demanded significant changes to the economic program. Nothing has been done in this regard. To the contrary, all that was done was the elimination of a bad tax decision. As you will recall, thank God a legislature existed at that time, the legislature was responsible for blocking tax measures that were out of technical context.

This is our reality, which has been worsened by the events of 5 April, as the flow of international resources has been affected. The receipt of international resources was a basic part of this program.

Meanwhile, there are fewer employment possibilities and wages continue to go down. Although inflation for this month appears to be low, the accumulated inflation over a 22-month period, as Manuel Romero explained, reveals that the reduction in the purchasing power of most Peruvians is very serious, since virtually no wage increases have been made. The distribution of income looks very bad. This confirms the fact that the economic program requires deep modifications. Will Minister Bolona undertake reforms? I understand he has plans to change some details of the plan, such as increase the exchange rate. The Central Reserve Bank will do this by printing more money to buy more dollars and raise their price. I do not believe the impact of this measure will be significant. I do not think it will be effective. [Passage omitted]

[Vargas] Correct. Please hold the wire because now it is Dr. Graciela Fernandez Baca's turn. Good morning doctor. As always, welcome to the program. How are you?

[Fernandez] Good afternoon, Dennis, it is a pleasure to be here.

[Vargas] It is always a great pleasure to have you. On the same topic, I would like an analysis, a diagnosis, to fully study the other components in the economy, and especially taking into account the immediate and short-term future, which worries us all the most.

[Fernandez] We need to first make an up-to-date analysis, because to learn about the Peruvian people's well-being, not only do we need to study the economic indicators, but the social indicators as well. School truancy should concern us. It is not right that approximately 20 percent of students have not registered in their local schools. This is a general setback for the entire country. Let us also discuss the health sector. Hospital service is grossly deficient. Everything is scarce. State hospitals are no longer free, now people must pay. Is the population's average legal minimum income or other income enough to pay for health services?

We can then say that education and health are deteriorating, and as my friend Guido said, underemployment and unemployment are also growing. Many big industries are undergoing liquidation or on the edge of bankruptcy—all this should make us reflect. Yes, inflation is under control. This month has really been a surprise. A month so politically agitated registered an average 3 percent, following nearly six years without such a low inflation index.

[Vargas] Could this be a contradiction? Tension and speculation have played an important role during the month, however, the inflation index does not seem to reflect this situation. The inflation rate has been one of the lowest of the last few years. How can you explain this?

[Fernandez] I would conduct an analysis by consumer groups and an analysis of what happened in the past 12 months. Items such as clothing and shoes, for example, have not increased. Why? Because there is no demand. There is no demand for items such as furniture and appliances, because they are of secondary importance. People are no longer purchasing shoes. The price of shoe repairs has gone up, however. I think we must conduct a microanalysis to understand a little better what is happening to the Peruvian people. In the past week, food prices have gone up. [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that for the first time since this government has been in office, we have attained the expected annual inflation rate of 40 percent.

[Vargas] It is now Humberto Jara's turn. He is a regular member of our panel, and so is Dr. Arturo Salazar. Good morning, Humberto.

[Jara] Good morning, Dennis. I have a question for Guido Penano. Based on the remarks by Dr. Fernandez Baca, one would think that the drop in the inflation rate in April will lead to either the peculiar situation where a political development as serious as the one in April could generate some degree of trust or that a drop was expected following the high inflation rate in March. Which of these two views can better explain the drop in the inflation rate? Also, what about the economic program? I think that to say there is a smokescreen does not make much sense. What would the government gain by hiding a problem that each citizen feels in his pocket? What will happen to the economic program in the months ahead, assuming Economy and Finance Minister Oscar Bolona will continue with the same program?

[Vargas] Dr. Guido Penano.

[Penano] First of all, I would like to say Mrs. Fernandez' remarks are very clear. I think she has been very accurate. There is no consumer demand, she said. We agree with that. The fundamental reason for the very low inflation rate in April is that the majority of the people cut spending. We would have to ask them why? One could say it is because of the uncertainty of the political developments during April. People avoid purchasing all sorts of durable products. People chose not to purchase—they did not want to purchase—durable products. There was a great drop in the demand for products not included in the family basket. The recovery is just

beginning now, as the people are getting a clearer view of how political developments are unfolding.

When there is no demand, when demand drops further, which has been happening for an untold number of months in our economy, one can understand the current results. As Mrs. Fernandez noted, last week we saw a recovery in the regrettable inertia in our economy, which has not yet been put under control under this economic stabilization program. [passage omitted]

As for your second question, which I think has political overtones, I do not know if the government wanted a smoke screen around the economic issue. I do know the topic of the economy has clearly been left on the sidelines. I recall that before 5 April, the presidents of some associations were not just actively asking for a change in economic policy, but also to change the minister. Those same leaders are now calling for Minister Bolona to remain in the cabinet. What will happen? I seriously doubt the minister will have the opportunity to change his program. He is absolutely and totally committed to his program—not just in ideological terms, but also in terms of relations with international institutions.

[Vargas] Are we to understand, Dr. Penano, that Dr. Bolona's presence means he will defend at all costs the economic program's initial and substantive focal points, and that he will not yield to any populist change?

[Penano] I would dare to think, and I believe, that Carlos Bolona is a consistent individual. He has proven this and I doubt very much he will accept changes. His national and international prestige would deteriorate a great deal if he yielded to populism. Furthermore, I believe we are all aware this would be the worst thing that could happen to Peru. The problem is that economists have their beliefs and politicians have theirs. I imagine politicians encounter a very problematic conflict of interests when they need poll ratings [previous word in English].

[Jara] Dr. Romero Caro, I believe my question may lead to some sort of statement from a citizen's perspective. Economic indexes and such things are understood by individuals who work with them. Something strange is going on—it is said the people are not buying, and this was quite obvious during the month of April. Nevertheless, something strange has happened; these same people are supporting the current president.

During the past few years, economists' announcements have always been preceded by reports of some very serious event, such as social upheaval. When it was announced a shock policy would be implemented, the first thing said was that the Caracas events would be repeated here, and so forth.

We have overcome hyperinflation, we have initiated a shock policy, and in all of these cases the announcements made by economic analysts mentioned a catastrophic situation for the country. In the end, however, by making huge sacrifices—this is unquestionable—we found solutions. With our current social situation, which clearly indicates a serious economic situation, what could happen if we considered past events in our country?

[Romero] Before answering your question, I would like to go back to the previous question, which was similar because it referred to the decline in consumption levels and the atypical low inflation rate in March. It is evident consumption has dropped, it is evident there has been less demand, as Mrs. Fernandez said, but this is basically due to one very important factor, which is the Central Reserve Bank monetary policy. It has been particularly restrictive during this period. So much so that the downward trend in interest rates, as we all know, experienced a change and resumed its upward trend. In other words, the people did not have money to make purchases.

The point is if that monetary policy led to the smallest inflation rate in an untold number of months, 3.2 percent, as Mrs. Fernandez said. Jorge Chavez, former Central Bank Manager, mentioned that same monetary policy here on Radio Programas del Peru. He said the president asked him to resign through the Council of Ministers. He said he supported the monetary policy and that is why he was removed. What will be the new monetary policy and what impact will it have on inflation? We have a first topic that is important to define.

A second topic or explanation for the low rate in the consumer price index in March, not including the monetary policy, was the delay in the tax package. The tax package....[pauses] the 7.4 percent figure in March was greatly due to the March tax package. Then we had some progress and setbacks, as implementation of some new measures was delayed. It is clear that when they are implemented, this will have a correlation in the prices. It would not surprise me if a few hours from now a readjustment in the prices of fuel, goods and services, and public services are made. That is clear. [passage omitted]

The topic is what will happen when President Fujimori's popularity drops, as he is associating support for his government and his level of popularity to the inevitable readjustment of prices and public fares. There are three groups clearly supporting Fujimori, namely, the Armed Forces, businessmen—or many of them—and the people in general. It is clear that when he takes steps, such as readjusting prices and eliminating some exemptions, this will affect the people. Even if he respects the readjustments in the Armed Forces, they will not reach the expected levels because of fiscal woes. [passage omitted]

[Salazar] [passage omitted] I think the fiscal economy is growing worse. It would not surprise me at all if May is a very difficult month, as Humberto said, because pressures will continue and they will deal with....[pauses] Mr. Penano has talked of a $650 million deficit in external flows. It seems the amount should be a little higher if one adds up all the problems in the fiscal bank [caja fiscal]. I think the fiscal bank will be the focus of major concern in May. This is the topic I would like our guests to discuss.

[Vargas] Here is Mrs. Fernandez.

[Fernandez] I totally agree. The fiscal bank....[pauses] We are still talking about the much flaunted tax reform. Some success has been achieved in handling taxes. A 9 percent increase compared to 6 percent in the past is important, but the amounts collected are not enough to cover the expenditures the government has to make by law, and those which the people demand as their right. [passage omitted]

In November and December 1991, CUANTO conducted a survey for the World Bank on the living standard. It is unbelievable to see how poverty is increasing. Over half of the population is poor, 51 percent. We have always had chronic poverty, but the number of new poor people is rising. More worrisome is the fact that only 7 percent of the population live comfortable lives. [passage omitted]

[Romero] [passage omitted] It is not that the news of the drop in the inflation rate is not good. Who would dare say that. This drop, however, must be permanent or else frustrations will increase. The inflation rate was 3.5 percent in January, 4.7 percent in February, 7.4 percent in March, and 3.2 percent in April. The inflation rate is high in terms of what it cost to achieve this drop. Let us keep in mind that during the electoral campaign, the objective was to reach a 10 percent annual inflation rate in 12 months. That was the objective promised. May will be a difficult month in fiscal terms, as fiscal measures will be implemented, which will have a cost in terms of the inflation rate.

The point is that everyone acknowledged the government erred in readjusting public fares and prices, which were frozen for almost five months. We know there were no readjustments since November or December 1991. It was acknowledged this was a mistake because it lead to an increase in the fiscal deficit—not just for the central government, but also for business activities in the states.

Getting into the specific fiscal aspect, the margin is slim. The probability of improving the fiscal situation by reducing costs is slight because the spending levels are already very restricted. [passage omitted]